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Issue No 80
Available from Wednesday,
March 25, 2009

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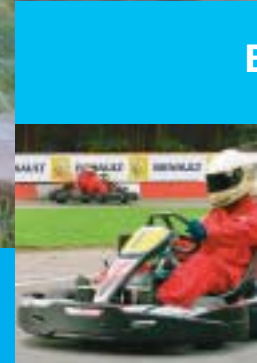
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Sunday 29 March

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CANTERBURY, WHITSTABLE, HERNE BAY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



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HEAT RISES ON OUR £6M 'FROZEN' CASH

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Search 'food' - and see page 11

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Picture: PAUL CLAPP



THE MARLOWE BOWS OUT

Comic Brian Conley leaves Lord Mayor Carolyn Parry in stitches during Sunday's A Night of a Thousand Stars at the Marlowe Theatre - a star-studded farewell to the famous venue. The West End and TV star was one of a number of big names who took to the stage for the special gala night show which sold-out months in advance.

SPECIAL MARLOWE COVERAGE INSIDE - SEE PAGE 3

BY GARETH ARNOLD

CITY council chiefs say they expect to finally get some of the £6 million invested in failed Icelandic banks back by June - despite fears they would be forced to write-off 90 per cent of the cash.

The council had a total of £6m invested with two Icelandic banks - £4m in Heritable Bank and £2m in Glitnir Bank.

Glitnir was taken over by the Icelandic government and Heritable, which is Icelandic owned but UK domiciled, went into receivership last year.

In both cases the money has been frozen, blowing a gaping hole in city funds. The council had hoped to benefit from healthy interest payments throughout the year, but now finds itself with a shortfall of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

And despite positive signs earlier this year, Arlingclose, a financial consultancy which advises more than 50 councils, has now claimed local authorities could face losing 90 per cent of their investments.

The firm based its gloomy prediction on current financial trading figures which indicate that Icelandic banks' share values are so low the money is simply not available to pay back.

Yet a Government report, which came out last Friday, still gave a positive indication that local authorities would recoup the majority of their cash.

And Canterbury council is remaining bullish

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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2 EmCee Flapjack is back. See broadband TV channel www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'flapjack'.



3 Julie Maddocks shops for clothes on a budget. See broadband TV channel www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'money'.

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Homeowners object to pub calling for time

BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

PLANS for a Wincheap pub to extend opening times have proved controversial with nearby homeowners.

Most of the objectors are unhappy as they say the Punch Taverns-owned Imperial Hotel is in a completely residential area with young families and sheltered housing for old age pensioners.

Almost 20 residents have written voicing their objections, predominantly on the grounds of noise disturbance and fears of drunken crime when patrons leave the premises.

The pub, on Martyrs' Field Road, has applied to extend opening and drinking times by an hour each night. If successful the application would also extend dancing and music for an extra hour.

This would mean the pub would stay open until 1.30am on Saturdays, serving drinks until 1am.

The landlords also wish to extend opening hours by an hour in the morning on some public holidays including the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

Unnecessary

James Sampson, of Guildford Road, said: "We are clearly able to hear the music played at the pub from our bedroom and there are plenty of houses closer than us which will be more affected."

"The thought of going to work over the weekend having only had a few hours sleep due to music being played until 1am is unacceptable."

Many of those who oppose the plans also say the increased opening times are unnecessary as those who wish to drink late and dance can do so in the city centre.

Jamie and Sally MacLean, of Heaton Road, said: "Such opening hours will directly affect us as it will



Picture: JENNY ARMSTRONG

TIME PLEASE: Imperial wants longer hours

increase noise pollution and anti-social behaviour, therefore creating public nuisance and potentially increasing levels of crime and disorder in the area.

"We feel that having chosen to live in a quiet area such as this, it would be wrong for The Imperial to spoil the neighbourhood."

"Should people wish to drink, dance and listen to music until late, then Canterbury city centre is approximately a ten-minute walk away and provides a host of venues specifically for this purpose."

The licensees say they ensure customers do not linger at closing time and they close all windows and doors at 8pm, regularly checking noise levels outside the building.

The licensees also claim the structure and fabric of the building keeps the noise levels low.

• Email yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk

'We remain sure we will get most back'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE about getting the money back.

Cllr John Gilbey, the council leader, told Yourcanterbury: "We remain sure that we will get the £4m back, and a substantial portion of the £2m."

"Along with the county council we are a preferred debtor which means we will be first in line when anything is paid back."

But Canterbury and other Kent councils with assets still frozen in Iceland will face costs in terms of lost interest – thought to be about £400,000 for the district – and legal bills as lawyers are employed to get the money back.

To minimise the legal fees, several councils have grouped together to mount a single legal challenge, spearheaded by KCC.

The county council had £50m worth of investments with Icelandic banks; three investments totalling £15m with Glitnir, four investments with Landsbanki totalling £17m and six totalling £18.35m with the Heritable Bank.

Cllr Gilbey said: "There certainly will be some costs, but we got together quickly with KCC and the other councils so we are only paying one group of lawyers. There will be some cost to Canterbury, but it will be worth it to get the money back."

And Mr Gilbey said according to the Government, the councils may even get the first payments back this summer.

College sweating over funds to finish build

BOSSES at Canterbury College are nervously awaiting a Government decision over funding for the next phase of their multi-million pound redevelopment programme.

The college has already spent £50 million on the first two phases of a huge modernisation programme.

But the third and final phase of the project, also expected to cost in the region of £50m, has been put on hold, along with major redevelopments at several other Kent colleges.

Our sister paper, Kent on Sunday, exclusively revealed this weekend that the Government funding for a nationwide redevelopment of more than 100 UK colleges was over stretched.

The Learning and Skills Council, the body responsible for overseeing the project, has now been ordered to prioritise the most deserving projects.

Canterbury College says it remains positive the campus will not lose out on the cash.

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Theatre curtain falls as we prepare to dig deep

Council tax to rise as a result

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

GET ready to pay a high price for the new Marlowe Theatre as council chiefs prepare to implement maximum council tax hikes for the next few years.

As the curtain fell on the existing building on Sunday, in front of a sell-out crowd and a host of famous faces, the financial impact of giving the ambitious £25.6 million rebuild the green light at Thursday night's crunch council vote began to hit home. The council has already admitted the massive bill attached to the new theatre will impact on other capital projects, and possibly services, in future years.

During the debate over the theatre's future, executive member for finance Jim MacDonald pulled no punches when spelling out the budget implications for the Canterbury district.

He said: "If this [council tax rise] does not go ahead, and we increase council tax by 3.3 per cent for example, then in addition to the £1.8m shortfall by 2013, we will face an extra £500,000 deficit. This could mean that other capital projects will not go ahead."



CURTAIN CALL: Stars take the applause on Sunday night as the old Marlowe Theatre staged its last ever production

And statements last month indicated central government would not hesitate to cap council tax increases deemed to be excessive; with five per cent seen as pushing that to the limit.

But theatre bosses point out the new Marlowe is predicted to boost the district's economy by £22m a year, a welcome windfall for businesses, and will also be cheaper to run – requiring half the subsidy of the old Marlowe.

So great is the expected effect that several members suggested that had the new theatre not been approved, Canterbury's businesses would suffer as the reputation of the city as a cultural centre plummeted.

Cllr Michael Dixey said: "Canterbury relies

on tourism. If Canterbury was a brand it would be worth billions. If this new theatre does not go ahead it would damage that brand terribly."

But it is council finances that will come under scrutiny as the true Marlowe effect becomes apparent. The council's asset disposal plan, intended to bring in £11m to help pay for the ambitious capital building programme, is now predicted to make about half of the expected total – just £5.8m. This could mean extra land and property is added to the council's secret sales list, as bosses try to make up the shortfall.

But council leader John Gilbey said the council can afford the project, and the new Marlowe could lead the district out of the recession.

Grab yourself a piece of history

SIGNED photos, posters, signs, seats and furniture are up for grabs as the Marlowe Theatre stages a massive farewell sale on Saturday.

Everything from glitter balls to parts of the stage itself will be on sale, with staff insisting everything must go.

The building has to be emptied before work on the development can start in May.

Staff will take some items with them when they move to the Visitor Information Centre during the closure and other things have been put into storage.

The sale will start at 11am on the theatre forecourt, or, if it is raining, in the café bar.

Sale-goers will also be able to buy a piece of Marlowe Theatre history in the form of a small section of the stage encased in a clear resin box.

See our blog page - turn to page 13.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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View Marlowe Theatre's history. Search the leisure channel.

Panto big top takes centre stage in city

THE giant tent to be used to host this year's pantomime is set to swing into action in London next month, when it hosts a run of Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens.

The shows are due to run from the end of May to the end of August, before the heated, state-of-the-art circus-style big top is packed up and is moved down to Canterbury's Kingsmead coach park.

There it will host the Marlowe's version of Peter Pan, running from November through to January.

Thousands

The set-up of the theatre in London will see performances staged 'in the round', although it is not clear if the panto will be staged in a similar way within the 1,000-seater venue.

Tickets are already on sale for the Canterbury version and thousands have already been snapped up.

Cast details have yet to be confirmed, although Dave Lee will be returning – along with his famous bench.

The show will be produced, once again, by Evolution Productions, and the popular husband and wife team of Paul Hendy and Emily Wood.

Stars come out to bid final farewell in four-hour gala show

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

CONFUSION reigned over the absence of EastEnder's star Barbara Windsor during Sunday's gala send-off.

Billed to appear in the programme, she was the only one not to make an appearance, with the audience given no information as to why she was not there.

Show organisers Paul Hendy said her management had contacted them several days before the show to say she was unwell and would not be performing. However, when we contacted her management they said she had a 'prior engagement'.

Regardless, her absence failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd who had snapped up all the tickets for A Night of a Thousand Stars. Within hours of the tickets going on sale.

Among those performing were comic Brian Conley, Dave Lee, Oscar-nominated Ron Moody – reprising his famous role as Fagin for perhaps the final time, ex-Blue Peter star Peter Duncan and former

pantomime stars Shaun Williamson, Stephen Mulhern and Emma Barton. All stars gave up their time free of charge.

The show ran for more than four hours.

Also appearing were entertainer Hilary O'Neil and TV writer and presenter Jon Holmes. Orlando Bloom recorded a special video message with his own memories.

The highlight of the show, however, was a moving version of Andrea Bocelli's Time to Say Goodbye, sung by local opera singer Margaret Threadgold.

For a full review of the show and details of all the famous faces who took part read our leisure reporter Jane Connolly's review on our website – www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

And if you were there on Sunday night let us know what you thought of the show. Email us today at: yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Society to discuss onset of Alzheimer's at meeting

THE Alzheimer's Society is holding their annual open meeting at 11am this Friday.

There will be a talk about early onset dementia and the first ever presentation of the Ruth Pollen Award for Carers. Accounts will also be presented and officers elected.

The Thanet and Canterbury branch of the Society will hold the meeting at St Andrew's Church Hall, Hampton Pier Avenue, Herne Bay. Coffee will be served from 10.30am and the meeting is expected to last until noon.

Man beaten by thugs who took wallet carrying £380

CROOKS stole £380 in a robbery in Victoria Park, Herne Bay last Wednesday, with the victim requiring hospital treatment after he was punched and kicked.

The attack happened between 2pm and 2.15pm. The victim, 33, was assaulted by two men who beat him and stole his wallet.

Both suspects are white males, around 20-years-old. One was 6ft tall, had a shaved head and blue tracksuit, the other slim build, 6ft 2in with a grey hooded top.

Scouts' supermarket bag pack raises a vital £600

SCOUTS helped shoppers pack their bags at a supermarket at the weekend - and raised hundreds of pounds in the process.

The youngsters from 1st Whitstable Scouts did a bag pack at the local Sainsbury's store in Chestfield in order to raise funds for the overhaul of their Acton Road headquarters.

And the hard-working, helpful children were rewarded for their efforts by shoppers handing over £600.

Youngsters pitch up to learn about camping

CANTERBURY Rotary Club has organised its first outdoor skills day for teenagers.

They were taught to cook safely on camping stoves as well as pick a suitable camp site, pitch tents, navigate with a map and compass as well as some first aid skills.

Youngsters also got to see the contents of a ShelterBox which is dropped to people in disaster areas and contains equipment to help 10 people survive for six months.

Interested in similar events? Email the club; service@rotarycanterburysunrise.org.

Here come the girls for summer gig

CHART stars Sugababes and James Morrison are to perform back-to-back outdoor shows in Canterbury this summer.

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

The two acts have been confirmed to perform in June at Kent's home ground of the St Lawrence Ground in Old Dover Road.

And the two shows should prove a much needed money-spinner for the cash-strapped cricket club which suffered more heavy losses recently as a result of the recession putting its ambitious ground redevelopment proposals on hold.

The multi-million selling all-girl group the Sugababes will appear on June 26 while Brit Award winner James Morrison will perform on June 27.

Tickets are available now for both shows and support acts will be revealed soon.

They will be the first shows since Elton John played to a packed house in 2006. He performed all his hits at the club in a show which made around £30,000 for club coffers.

Kent's director of operations, Jon Fordham, said: "We are delighted to beat off a whole host of competition to bring two fantastic musical acts to Canterbury."

"James Morrison's reputation as a must-see live performer ensures that he will bring a great following while the Sugababes are a show-stopping live act and they too will prove really popular."

"Elton John was our first music concert here at Kent County Cricket Club, back in 2006, and he performed to a capacity crowd. Now, three years later, we are confident that both concerts will fill our ground."

Malcolm Spencer, from Squareleg Entertainment Ltd, who has helped the club put together the concerts added: "Both the Sugababes and James Morrison are delighted to be playing here. The St Lawrence Ground is a fantastic setting for a music concert and I fully expect both nights to sell out. It's not



SWEET SOUNDS: The Sugababes will look to bowl over a sell-out crowd at the St Lawrence later this year

often that you get two massive acts playing in the highly picturesque county of Kent, so I am confident that people of all ages will support and attend these events."

• Tickets can be booked via Kent's new-look official website www.kentccc.com or via the ticket hotline on 01227 456886. Tickets from the club are £26.50 which includes booking fee and postage.

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Centre helps crime crackdown

CRIME has gone down in Thanington thanks to the new resource centre, say police who are celebrating its success with a new video.

Canterbury officers and Thanington residents star in a new film to mark the start of the force's Safer Spring campaign.

It highlights the work of police officers who worked with the council and other partners to help create the resource centre.

Since it opened police say the area has seen a big reduction in crime and vandalism in the area.

Paula Spencer, who runs the centre, said "The police are part of the team and the children love

them because they are great. They join in and are fantastic, and we really appreciate having them here."

Police community support officer, Sam Milton, is one of the officers involved with the Thanington project.

He said: "It is an absolutely fabulous place. It helps the community and it makes my job easier because I know where the kids are and I can interact with them."

View Kent Police's video launching the campaign at our free, broadband website www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Search 'safer'.



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Webmaster in call to boost recycling site

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

THE creator of innovative recycling website SnaffleUp is looking for a PR savvy partner to help increase the number of users.

SnaffleUp allows visitors to post up their unwanted items to see if anyone else can make use of them, but Herne Bay businessman Chris Toynbee, who started the site in August last year, says he may be forced to shut the site down unless he can increase the number of users.

SnaffleUp has built up a user base of more than 5,000 people, but Mr Toynbee says he has yet to reach the "critical mass" required to keep it viable. He hopes a PR boost will get more people logging on and allow SnaffleUp to become self supporting.

Mr Toynbee said: "There is definitely scope there to make money. It just needs to get that critical mass of users."

"Once the number of users goes up then there will be money to be made from advertising revenue and a few other sources, but it's just getting that number of users."

"It's just been difficult getting the word out there. You need a budget and marketing expertise and I just don't have that at the moment."

"I'm looking for someone to take on a sort of shareholder type role as a partner, with some background in PR and marketing who knows how to spread the word."

Mr Toynbee says the economic downturn might even benefit sites like his own.

He said: "In theory, during the economic downturn this kind of site should do well as more people will be looking for free items."

The things that get added to the site daily are many and varied with everything from lobster pots to lampshades being given away.



CRITICAL MASS: Chris Toynbee is looking for someone to help him boost membership of website SnaffleUp

And Mr Toynbee is happy with the thought that what could have once ended up in Britain's overstuffed landfill sites is being reused somewhere else.

Mr Toynbee has eight years' experience designing websites, mainly for corporate clients, but says he prefers working on SnaffleUp.

He said: "I do a lot of corporate work, but I like doing SnaffleUp more. I spend a few days a week on it, depending on how much other work I've got on, but I enjoy it much more than the stuff that pays the bills."

Body on beach was missing man

THE body of a Sheerness man who had been missing for a week was discovered washed up on the beach at Tankerton last Friday.

Steven Parratt, 36, of Meyrick Road, Sheerness, was found dead in front of The Marine Hotel, Marine Parade.

Mr Parratt had been reported missing on Friday March 13, sparking a public appeal by police.

An air and sea search also took place in a bid to find the man.

However, his body was found washed up on the shore close to Whitstable just a week later.

Part of the beach was sealed off while forensic investigators examined the remains but police said they were not treating the death as suspicious.

Designs behind the new-look Marlowe

KEITH WILLIAMS is the architect given the task of defining Canterbury's skyline with the new Marlowe Theatre.

In a special interview conducted last year, reporter Nick Ames met Mr Williams to run through the plans and his reasoning behind his ambitious designs.

And you can take a look at the plans for yourself simply by logging-on to our free broadband TV channel at www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Simply search 'Marlowe' and scroll through the clips.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Concert to help homeless

THE GOOD Samaritan who organised a Christmas dinner for Canterbury's homeless last year is starting fundraising early with a live music event.

Last year, Matthew Meyritz, a chef from The New Inn in Havelock Street, provided a free dinner, present and evening of entertainment for 150 homeless people, and others, in the city.

Although he had help from other chefs and bar staff, with some companies and organisations providing such essentials as soft drinks and cutlery, he and his brother Tom generously paid for the entire occasion.

By starting early this year, Mr Meyritz hopes to entice others to chip in and is combining fun with fundraising by organising a live music event.

The music will be performed by students and local high street buskers, including a Christ Church University student who will play the piano and sing.

The event will take place on Wednesday, April 8 at St Peter's Hall, St Peter's Street, Canterbury between 11am and 3.30pm.

Man injured in fire at flats

A FIRE outside a Canterbury flat has led to a man being treated for smoke inhalation.

Police and firefighters were called to the blaze in Hertford Court, off Warwick Road, last Tuesday.

The fire is believed to have started in a bag of rubbish in a walkway outside flats on the second floor. Police were alerted by Kent Fire and Rescue Service at 12.45am.

A man from one of the flats was taken to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital but was allowed home following treatment.

There was minor damage to three of the flats.

Drunk hit car with shovel

A DRUNKEN man attacked a sports car with a shovel but couldn't remember why he did it.

Simon Ferrett, 37, of Oakdale Road in Herne Bay, went into a garden in Oxenden Street and took the shovel and a plant pot.

He was seen attacking a Nissan 200 SX sports saloon by police.

Last week he admitted criminal damage at Canterbury Magistrates Court. Ferrett said he did not know why he smashed the windscreen and caused other dents.

Ferrett was given a 12-month community order, 200 hours community service and ordered to pay £1,500 in damages and £60 costs.

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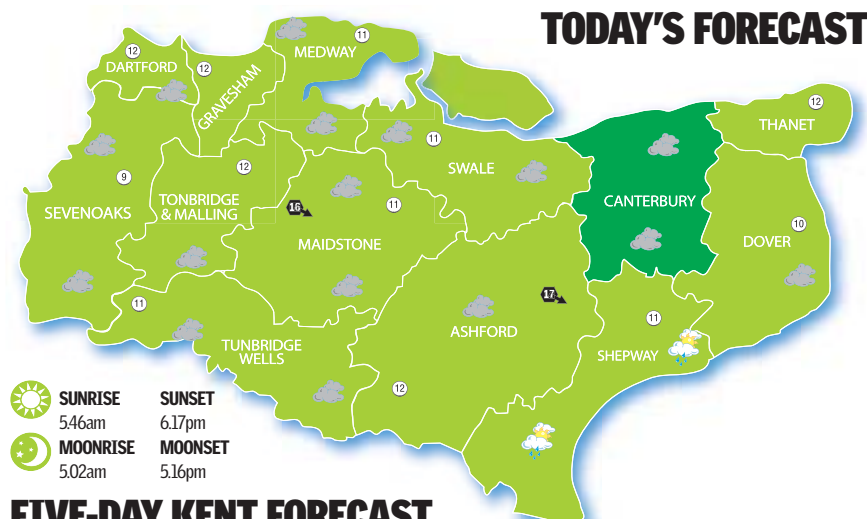
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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	Gravesend	11°C	12°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Canterbury	10°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	8°C	Maidstone	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	8°C
Chatham	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C	Ramsgate	10°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	8°C
Dartford	11°C	12°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	Rochester	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C
Dover	9°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	8°C	Sevenoaks	9°C	9°C	10°C	8°C	7°C
Faversham	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C
Folkestone	9°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	8°C	Tonbridge	11°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	8°C
Gillingham	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C	Tun Wells	11°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	8°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:51pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:26pm	6.1m
Dover	Saturday	11:51am	6.6m
	Sunday	1:27pm	6.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:01pm	7.8m
	Sunday	1:36pm	7.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:21pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:57pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:41pm	5.8m
	Sunday	3:16pm	5.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:43pm	5.2m
	Sunday	3:15pm	5.2m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	8°C	Madrid	19°C
Athens	12°C	New York	10°C
Barcelona	17°C	Paris	13°C
Beijing	9°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	37°C	Sydney	27°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	19°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	15°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	28°C	Warsaw	6°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	13°C

University defends merger of graduation ceremonies

ART students have been angered by their university's decision to merge a three-date graduation calendar into a single event.

Undergraduates at the Canterbury campus of the University for the Creative Arts have been told their graduation is to be merged with Rochester and Maidstone. The combined ceremony is to be held at Maidstone Studios.

Hundreds of UCA students have condemned the decision and set up three internet campaign groups have been set up.

A UCA spokesman said: "To mark our first graduations with full university title, we will be bringing our students together for a collective celebration at Maidstone Studios."

"It is a contemporary space which will allow us to create the environment and ambience befitting a creative arts university."

Club's photo display offer

MORE than 250 people visited a Canterbury Photographic Society exhibition and the club is now looking for spaces in which to display members' work.

Pubs, restaurants and other businesses are being offered the chance to display prints provided free by the club, either temporarily or permanently.

The success of the latest exhibition, at the Methodist Church hall in St Peter's Street, last week, has prompted organisers to make it an annual event. Contact honorary secretary Mike Peak on 01227 275731.



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JULIE ROOK



Q What is the key to having a long-running successful family business?

A Good old fashioned customer service, reputation, and of course we wouldn't be anywhere without our wonderful staff. Many people remember Rook's as part of their childhood. When I was young and before I married into the family, Rook's in Ramsgate was the only butchers my grandmother and mother would bother with. People have warm and fond memories from childhood and I think Rook's is maybe one of them. People trust us to feed their children. Many of our members of staff have also been with us for many years and our customers trust them and like to see the same old friendly face when they visit one of our stores. We are also trusted for our quality. All the meat we sell has passports and we can tell at any given time what farm or supplier your Sunday joint has come from. We also believe that we supply really good value for money without compromising on quality.

Q Celebrity chefs including Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Jamie Oliver have appeared on television encouraging viewers to eat British meat and free range poultry. Has J C Rook and Sons noticed a change in trade since the shows?

A We are eternally grateful to all of those celebrity chefs that highlight the need for British consumers to support British farmers and British businesses. Although I can't honestly say that trade has increased because of those shows, what I can say is that people are

genuinely more concerned with the quality of food they consume. They want to know where their food has come from and how it has been handled en-route. Because of our reputation in being able to supply this information for our customers we have been able to survive in this extremely competitive market.

Q Jamie Oliver's recent Channel 4 show Save Our Bacon aimed to encourage people to buy pork from struggling British farmers who had lost trade to foreign farmers, has J C Rook and Sons been affected by the foreign trade?

A Not really. We have always stocked local pork and will always stock local pork. However, Kent has lost many pork farmers recently simply because they couldn't compete with the foreign farmers and so we now have to buy pork from Sussex as well to keep up with demand.

Q The country seems to be in a dilemma between buying intensively reared or free range chicken, where does J C Rook and Sons stand on the issue?

A We do not stock the intensively farmed battery chickens. We believe this is cruel and unnecessary, but I don't think there is any dilemma for local people. People genuinely would love to be able to afford to eat organic free range chicken every day of the week, but many simply can't afford to, so we stock the barn reared and the organic free range chicken. What we do at Rook's is offer the choice and then people can then make up their own mind.

Q What are the benefits for people buying their meat from a butcher instead of a supermarket?

A We are experts in meat, supermarkets are not. Our butchers can tell the customer what the best cuts are, what the most economical cuts are and the cooking instructions as well as what farm that particular piece of meat is from. Butchers provide food confidence, local food for local people with less food miles travelled. More local people employed, not only in the retail side but also production side, and do we really want to see high streets full of supermarkets. Use us or lose us has always been the motto.

Q Tell us about the eco-friendly factors of the business?

A We have been working in partnership with local land owners to enable us to produce some of our own beef on land near Fowlmead Country Park in Deal. This not only helps local farmers but also gives our customers confidence in the food they eat as well as reducing food miles travelled and carbon footprint. We are also proud to have 100 per cent biodegradable packaging and were (we believe) the first company in Kent to introduce a charge for plastic carrier bags. Any money raised in this way is donated to charity and our carrier bag consumption has reduced by over 60 per cent. We also recycle as much of our waste as possible and have speed limiters on all our delivery vehicles.

Q&A

Julie Rook, marketing manager for Kent-based butcher J C Rook and Sons and wife of chief executive Chris Rook, talks to **Anna White** about the family-run business which has branches in Whitstable and Herne Bay

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A guide to the music on offer at Faversham Hop Festival. Search 'festival'.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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Recycling projects given helping hand

Countywide green schemes given share of £70,000

ELEVEN community projects have been awarded a total of £70,000 to go towards developing eco-friendly schemes.

The Kent Waste Partnership, which includes representatives from Kent County Council and the 12 district and borough councils in Kent, awarded the funding on Thursday from its Community Waste Action Fund. Each of the projects will use the money to fund initiatives designed to encourage recycling in their communities.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

The West Kent Extra and West Kent YMCA group was awarded the largest amount of £25,000, which will go towards purchasing two new vehicles to expand the group's existing recycling furniture scheme.

Landfill

The smallest amount of £100 was presented to Milstead parish council, near Sittingbourne, to purchase compost bins for local residents.

Minster Community Centre on

Sheppey, will get £8,000; Eythorne parish council, in Dover, £6,000; and Pepenbury, a residential home for adults with learning difficulties in Tunbridge Wells, will receive £7,000, all to go towards supporting higher recycling rates and cutting food waste.

Pepenbury fundraiser Nigel Hill said: "We live in the countryside and the last thing we want to see being built is a landfill, so we are going to recycle everything on site and hold events to get the community involved and hopefully encourage them to recycle everything they can as well."

Others Kent schemes to be award-

ed funding include the Greenhithe Community Market Garden, with £7,642; the First Faversham Scout Group, £2,000; Faversham Assistance Centre, £5,000; Resopon in Thamestead, £3,700; Skillnet, £2,600; and the Beat Project. £1,376.

Initiatives

The 11 projects were presented with cheques for the funding at County Hall in Maidstone on Thursday morning, by Kent County Council's lead member for environment Charles Hibberd and Sevenoaks district council's cabinet

member for the cleaner greener environment Avril Hunter.

Cllr Hunter, who attended on behalf of the district and borough councils throughout Kent, said: "These projects know their communities and know what their community needs and they are setting a fantastic example to others."

"I have been so impressed by the quality of the initiatives the projects have come up with."

Cllr Hibberd added: "Each of the projects is run by volunteers and they should be applauded as are helping to preserve the future of our county."



CHEQUE IT OUT: Members of the 11 projects receiving their money last week

Picture ANNA WHITE

Industry left soured by our work-shy young

DAIRY farmers say the industry in Kent is dwindling because young people are not prepared to get their hands dirty.

The number of farms producing milk, butter and cheese in the UK has fallen dramatically over the past 20 years and there are concerns the trend will never be reversed due to a lack of interest in entering the profession.

Falling milk prices coupled with rising production costs have made it a difficult time to be a dairy farmer, although some in Kent say the industry still has a bright future as long as there are people willing to work in it.

Romney Marsh farmer Steve Furnival said:

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

"There are guys who are retiring all the time, but the problem is the younger generation are not interested in the commitment of the job. They don't want to get up early and work hard all day."

Breeding

"I think there are about 35 or 40 farms left in Kent, but that's about half the number it was 20 years ago. The ones that are left tend to expand or become more efficient through better feeding or breeding techniques."

According to figures released this week by the Conservative Party, almost 15,000 farmers have quit the dairy industry since 1997 – the equivalent of 26 a week.

South East MEP Richard Ashworth, who lives in Folkestone, was a dairy farmer between 1970 and 2001.

He said: "The dairy industry does have a future in Kent and across the country because the demand for dairy products will always be high."

"There will be ups and downs so there needs to be top-class production standards, and if there are then I think the future will be bright."

Cathedral celebration will honour a joining of forces

THE Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service will take place at Rochester Cathedral tomorrow.

It is being held in the morning with a lunch reception to follow.

Allan Willett, the current holder of the post, has adopted a theme for the year called Mosaic of Communities in Kent.

This will celebrate cohesion among people and organisations across the county.

The service will be attended by civic dignitaries, councillors, magistrates and members of the emergency services.

A selection of people from the voluntary sector, as well as education and healthcare groups, have also been invited.

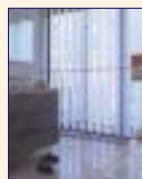


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Top TV chef backs our campaign

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips has thrown his weight behind the KOS Media 2009 campaign.

The star of such cooking shows as Ready Steady Cook, Step Up To The Plate and Too Many Cooks has endorsed our campaign to encourage readers to insist on locally produced food and drink.

Mr Phillips, 37, who lives near Leeds Castle and runs restaurants in Tenterden, Aylesford and Tunbridge Wells, says buying locally – and from our website www.foodforkent.co.uk – delivers not only great taste and great value, but plays a crucial role in boosting the local economy.

He said: "There is no-one who flies the flag for Kent more than me. I always source as much as I can locally and use local people as much as I can. We've filming two new TV series and I'm trying to get my local suppliers involved in that too, which will create opportunities, and jobs too, I hope.

"If we can put money in local producers' pockets, they will invest in their farms. And if their farms get bigger and better, they pro-



FINE DINING: Richard has three restaurants in Kent and knows first hand the quality of this county's produce

duce a better product. I wish all the producers success. Onwards and upwards."

Mr Phillips is no stranger to Kent, having been born and bred in the Medway towns. At 16 he moved to Broadstairs, where he attended catering college.

Moving to London while still a teenager, he trained under the Roux brothers, becoming the youngest commis chef at Le Gavroche. He then became Marco Pierre White's head chef for six years, in the process opening seven of his restaurants.

In 2001 he decided to branch out on his own and heralded his return to Kent with the opening of Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells – an eatery whose reputation for fine-dining has spread across the county. Since then The Hengist in Aylesford has been added to his roster and, most recently, his latest venture – and the first to take his name – Richard Phillips at Chapel Down, Tenterden.

He is also thoroughly committed to sourcing local produce for all his restaurants.

He said: "Local producers have raised their game. Years ago, supermarkets would swallow them up, but then spit them out, too. I think local producers decided enough was

enough and have been more creative and looked for other places to sell their produce. As a result, the quality has rocketed."

He says during the winter months his

menu will be 25-40 per cent Kent produce, reaching anything up to 75 per cent during the peak summer months.

As part of KOS Media's Buy Local Produce campaign, we have launched the website www.foodforkent.co.uk, teaming up with local producers of fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and drink to provide a one-stop shop for all your family's shopping needs.

Mr Phillips said: "If you buy local, you're buying in-season food – and if you buy in-season it's going to be cheaper. It will be in abundance, it's a better quality and it doesn't take as much work to get it to the perfect stage. The key thing is flavour – it hasn't taken a lot of time getting to your table.

"Otherwise, people pick things early, maybe four or five weeks ahead of time, so they can mature in transit.

But the problem with that is the best part of the growing process, and where they get their flavours, is the last knockings on the tree or in the ground. So although it may not last as long when you get it – which is good because you'll use it quicker – it will taste so much better.

"And I can buy it cheaper, which means I can roll that over to the customer. So better quality, better flavour and right behind that is better value for money."

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Locally sourced in Kent, wherever possible, the site offers a one-stop shop for the best meat, fish, drink, vegetables bread and fruit the Garden of England can offer.

Simply browse our huge range of fresh products at your leisure and then select a delivery time. Before you know it, a box packed full of nutritious, fresh, aromatic, great tasting and great value produce will be at your door.

In fact, you'll find overall, taken like-for-like, our prices are so competitive, you'll often find you SAVE on buying the equivalent items in the supermarket.



And you'll know that every penny you spend is directly supporting local suppliers and producers – supporting jobs and communities, as well as the rural heritage on which our county is built.

• So join the growing number of shoppers buying their weekly food and drink by logging-on today to www.foodforkent.co.uk.

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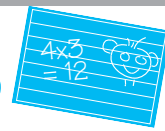
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BREAK TIME



Debating hot topics

FLATTEN Leeds Castle and replace it with a Disneyland? That was just one of the hotly debated topics at the first ever primary schools' council.

St Mary's Primary, Whitstable, joined youngsters from other schools at the debate, chaired by KCC cabinet member for education, Cllr Mark Dance.

Pupils researched and discussed four proposals, including levelling a forest to create 1,000 homes, keeping schools open throughout the year and building an underground train system.

After each debate, children were asked to recommend their favourite proposal.

Cllr Dance said: "The pupils gave well researched and persuasive arguments – I definitely saw politicians of the future."

The greatest show on Earth

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

A WORLD record-breaking performance at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden saw Canterbury pupils taking part in the biggest show ever staged at the legendary venue.

Wincheap Primary pupils joined more than 200 children from schools across the country, singing together in a unique, specially written show. Never before have so many children appeared together on stage in the West End. In comparison, the second highest number of child performers is *Oliver!*, which features a cast of 120 children.

The performance was compered by national singing ambassador Howard Goodall in front of an audience of 2,000 parents, teachers and pupils. Seven Kent schools were involved in the project and they rehearsed together in school halls so the youngsters could get used to performing as part of a large group.

The pupils and their teachers have been rehearsing with Royal Opera House staff since



October. They were coached by professionals including director Karen Gillingham, assistant director Amy Lane, vocal coaches Suzi Zumpe, Ayozie Pollendine and Lea Cornthwaite, pianists Jonathan Williams and James Longford and conductor Stuart Stratford. As the date of the show approached, March 14, pupils were taken to rehearse at the opera house itself, complete with props.

This is the first time a new musical work has been commissioned for young voices and performed on the Royal Opera House main stage.

The work forms part of an education project, *Voices of the Future*, which promotes the enjoyment of singing and invests in repertoire suitable for young singers.

On the *Rim of the World* was composed by the Royal Opera House associate composer Orlando Gough, with lyrics by Jehane Markham. It was inspired by the themes of home, family life, sleep and dreams, and deals with the transition from childhood to adulthood, portraying the adult world viewed through children's eyes.

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yourcanterburyblogger



Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Canterbury...

Don't go down my Wembley way in theatre souvenir sale

ON Saturday the final crowds will gather at the Marlowe Theatre for the venue's closing down sale.

For theatre fans it will be a chance to own a bit of history as the fixtures and fittings are flogged to raise a few bob before the bulldozers roll in and knock it down. All of this ahead of its state-of-the-art replacement being built.

You can even buy a little bit of the stage itself if you possess the money for such things.

It's not a new concept, just down the road at the St Lawrence cricket ground, Kent chiefs saw a chance to cash in when the old lime tree was blown down. By cutting it into splinters they made a small fortune. Clever.

Which reminded me of when the old Wembley Stadium was closed. As part of the sell-off they cut up slices of the pitch. It meant you could actually own some of the hallowed turf yourself. What's more, this was back in the early days of the internet. So you could buy

without millions muscling in, in a Michael Jackson-ticket-frenzy sort of way.

I snapped up a decent-sized chunk for about £30 from an auction site that wasn't eBay – that's how long ago it was in internet history. It came with stud marks and everything. I was prepared to ignore the fact the pitch was frequently replaced, and the piece I owned was probably only stood on by someone from Deal Town taking a throw in as they won the hotly contested last ever FA Vase final.

So, I expect you're keen to learn how I planted it carefully. How I gave it pride of place, perhaps placing a small picket fence around it. Or, at the very least, marking clearly where it was positioned so that as my children grew up they could stand and admire a genuine piece of history and coo appreciatively.

That, of course, would have been a good idea. Instead I put the well-packaged slice of turf, in its pizza-style cardboard box, in the cupboard under the stairs. And there it sat for some weeks. Festering, forgotten by me. Dying.

Perhaps not surprisingly, when, a few weeks later I remembered, the grass had turned a nasty – and rather unhealthy – looking shade of yellow. This was, if truth be told, now a square of dead grass and earth. I rushed outside, with the laughter of my wife ringing in my ears, in a desperate bid to resuscitate it by digging it a patch in my garden. Nature is good, but it's not a miracle worker.

So rather than a penalty spot to be the envy of all, you simply have to take my word for the fact there is some, ahem, dirt from the old Wembley, somewhere in my garden. Even the shrub I planted it near has been moved, meaning I'm not even sure where the dirt lies now.

A sorry tale which will make buying a piece of the Marlowe stage look like a brilliant worthwhile investment.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Canterbury blogger then submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourcanterbury, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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yourcompetition

Bringing back breakfast

BREAKFAST may be the most important meal of the day, but most of us still skip it and go for unhealthy choices.

That's why Warburtons, Britain's favourite family baker, is celebrating the nation's traditional breakfast favourite – boiled eggs and toasted soldiers.

Breakfast is vital for energy and concentration levels and this healthy option is an inexpensive, comforting and convenient way to kick start the day.

Warburtons' deliciously soft classic white Toastie loaf is the perfect accompaniment for the humble boiled egg.

It's ideal for toasting and even better for dunking! What's more, the large loaves are wrapped in wax paper to ensure all the freshness and taste is sealed in from the moment it's baked.

Boiled eggs and toasted soldiers are an incredibly healthy way to start the day. Bread is an important source of dietary fibre, low in sugar, fortified with calcium and it contains vitamins such as folic acid and iron.

Eggs are relatively low in saturated fat, making them a healthy choice for the whole family.

They're also a great source of choline, which



is often linked with keeping your brain in tip top condition.

To celebrate the nation's soft spot for boiled eggs and toasted soldiers, Warburtons is offering one reader the chance to win a luxury breakfast hamper including a classic Warburtons Toastie loaf, a chromed toast rack, egg cups and an assortment of breakfast essentials including English Breakfast Tea, marmalades and jams.

Your perfect breakfast hamper will also

include a selection of family board games to challenge the whole family's brain power.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question:

White bread is a good source of which of the below?

A) Cheese B) Chocolate C) Calcium

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TALK TIME

DECLAN KELLY

General manager of ABode Canterbury, talks about the time-consuming business of running the city's largest hotel



Tell us about Canterbury's Adode Hotel

The hotel has 72 bedrooms. We classify our rooms as; Comfortable, Desirable, Envious and Fabulous. Our food and beverage is based on the best local produce. We offer fine dining in our Michael Caines Restaurant, we have a Champagne bar, the Old Brewery Tavern and meetings and events facilities within the hotel.

What kind of customers use the hotel?

We have a broad spectrum. We have a strong corporate market utilising the hotel during the week and benefit from Canterbury's success as a tourist destination which drives our weekend occupancy. As a hotel our business model differs from the norm as a high percentage of our revenue is derived from food and beverage. We cater for the student market in the Old Brewery Tavern - for example our student night, Happy Mondays, offers drinks promotions till 2am, local business in the Michael Caines Restaurant offering an exceptional product at a competitive price, and high street shoppers during the day in our champagne bar.

What hat is the best part of working in the hotel industry?

Dealing with the public, exceeding guests' expectations and having the honour to work with an exceptional team.

And the worst part?

Not having enough time at home with my wife and young daughter.

How is the hotel coping with the economic downturn?

We're coping well. To be a success during the recession we have to enhance and add value to the product, not cut costs and not offer our clients a diminished experience.

YOUR LETTERS



New Marlowe a dream come true

I worked at the old Marlowe Theatre in St Margaret's Street when I was 13 until it closed in 1982. During that time I worked in just about every theatre department and even played the bear in 72 performance of the panto one Christmas.

At one point I was the chief electrician. I also built the sets and for a while actually sold the ice-creams.

When the council moved the Marlowe into a converted cinema I just thought it wasn't good enough. I decided to join the city council to fight for a purpose-built Marlowe Theatre.

When I became council leader six years ago, the first thing I did was pass the chief executive a piece of paper containing our new aims and objectives.

Top of the list was a new Marlowe Theatre. The council has been working to that agenda ever since and it has been a long



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process getting it all in place. But at last the plan is being realised. I have been one of a small group of council members that have formed the working group driving the project.

Obviously I am overjoyed that the dream I had 22 years ago is at last going to be realised - it is a great day for Canterbury.

Clr Alex Perkins
By email

Let street artists entertain us

Alex Perkins is right to be exasperated at how Canterbury council has implemented such strict regulations to control busking in the city.

The buskers, many of them amazingly talented, and the continental street market, are the main things I look forward to seeing when I venture into the city centre.

It appears that these stringent rules have been designed to deter buskers from playing in Canterbury. Why is this, when street performers are such a big attraction?

The musicians who take the time to entertain us with their varied repertoires are the life and soul of the city.

It is especially crazy that busking is only permitted between 10am and 4pm when many people are busy working.

Also, for what reason are buskers only allowed to perform in six specific locations?

It would be nice for citizens enjoying a relaxing evening stroll to be able to stop and listen to the likes of rock, jazz and classical musicians who I have had the pleasure of hearing on my travels around Canterbury.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler
Canterbury

Clive's not in touch with kids of today

I take it Clive Wilkins-Oppler has no children? I take it he knows no-one with teenage children either. I'm not entirely

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convinced he was ever a teenager himself. I assume this due to his ludicrous letter last week about the youths drinking in Herne Bay.

Clive, believe it or not, teenagers go through a rebellious phase. And believe it or not, not every teenager who hangs around with his mates on a Saturday night comes from a broken home where domestic violence breaks out the minute they step out of the door.

That is just what many teenagers do. And try as parents might, they cannot – and should not – look to control their child's every movement.

Mr Wilkins-Oppler ought to be ashamed of his sweeping statements and insulting tone both to parents and the teenagers themselves who no doubt found his patronising tones extremely amusing.

H Gordon
Herne Bay

Change attitudes on mental health

With reference to your recent story on the stigma attached to mental health, I note funding of £18 million has gone into the 'Time to Change' campaign.

It would be interesting to find out if some of this money has provided high-paid jobs within the charities involved.

It would be more positive to discover why one out of ten of the 2,000 surveyed had not experienced stigma and discrimination.

Posts on stigma are displayed on

walls, within the local mental health inpatient units. Is this a positive for recovery if clients think they have a high percentage of being discriminated against?

Let's hear more about those who have experienced mental health problems. Have they used the experience in a positive way?

Kent statutory services, take note. You are excluding those who do not belong to commissioned forums. Thereby you are not giving them a voice, nor do you have access to their skills or experience.

Recovery may rely on inclusion. So let's hear less on stigma, and more on positive outcomes.

Gay Hughes
Canterbury

We should not pay for council's errors

For more than a decade, in my judgement, councils and other non-job government agencies have let us down badly, without paying collective or personal penalties.

Anachronistic committee-based institutions like the Kent Police Authority, local councils and the civil service are virtually unregulated and unaccountable to taxpayers.

There are innumerable safe havens for over-paid bureaucrats who are part of the problem, not the solution, to today's social and financial crises.

Their allies-in-inefficiency are incompetent or complacent regulators, of little worth, apart from their

exorbitant cost to taxpayers. The Healthcare Commission is a disgrace in my opinion, as is its paymaster the Department of Health. They are cash-gobblers all of them, insatiable in their career-progression, bully-targets and perk-creation for fat-cats.

Can't we cull hopelessly inept institutions, clip their financial wings, and freeze not only business rates but end punishing surcharges, beginning with council tax?

Ironical that less gainfully-employed have large numbers of children when they are not even supporting themselves. It has never been a fair world, but the indignity heaped on taxpayers, including pensioners, is getting unbearable.

Rita Grootendorst
By email

Marathon effort for Heart Foundation

I'm writing to encourage your readers to join me in getting fit and active this spring, by signing up to take part in an event for the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

On April 26 I'll join the BHF Heart Runners team at the Flora London Marathon. I'm determined to finish and help support the nation's heart charity so I'm working hard to fit my training around filming for Holby City.

To find out more or to taking part in a BHF event visit bhf.org.uk/events or call 0844 477 1181.

Phoebe Thomas
Actress

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Ricky Tomlinson to share the stage with Jim Royle

LAUGHTER SHOW

Thursday, April 2, and
Friday, June 12
Orchard Theatre, Dartford, and
Woodville Halls, Gravesend



POPULAR comedian and actor Ricky Tomlinson brings his new Laughter Show to Kent this season.

A sure-fire antidote to the credit crunch, the man behind larger-than-life characters Jim Royle and Mike Bassett will be presenting an evening of big laughs. Joining him for the show, which runs for more than two hours, will be three other acts ready to cheer audiences in these recession-hit times.

Former Coronation Street and Emmerdale actor Tony Barton will be appearing, along with The Comedians star Eddie Archer and comedy rock band Black Onyx, which has performed in Rock With Laughter.

Tomlinson, 69, is one of Liverpool's best-known residents and has been a familiar figure on our television screens for nearly 30 years. But his early life was a world away from the glamour of the entertainment business, with a childhood marked by poverty. He was the son of a baker and his mother held down three jobs to help keep the family afloat.

Early on he hoped to become a professional footballer, but turned down a trial at Scunthorpe United to focus on playing the banjo in Liverpool's pubs and clubs. After getting married and moving to Wrexham, he found work in the construction industry and this would lead to his involvement with trade union politics.

In 1972 he became involved with the builders' strike, organising flying pickets and refusing to testify against his fellow strikers in court. Along with Des Warren, he was convicted of conspiracy charges and sentenced to two years in prison, but Tomlinson has always protested his innocence. He is still campaigning to clear his name and that of his fellow defendants.

During his time in prison Tomlinson developed a love of classical music and discovered socialist theory. Blacklisted by the building trade, on his release he became an entertainer and theatrical agent. His



VARIETY SHOW: As well as three support acts, Ricky Tomlinson will also be performing as popular characters Jim Royle and Mike Bassett during his Laughter Show

life changed forever in 1980 when one of his stage routines was spotted by director Alan Bleasdale, who offered Tomlinson a role in his acclaimed TV series Boys From The Blackstuff.

He went on to appear in the Jim Allen play United Kingdom and Ken Loach's film Riff Raff, though his best-known character during the 80s was trade unionist Bobby Grant in Channel 4 soap Brookside.

In 1998 he was reunited with his Brookside screen wife, Sue Johnston, to play the patriarch of The Royle Family. Written by Caroline Aherne

and Craig Cash, the BBC sitcom established Jim Royle as one of the most iconic characters in British comedy history.

He will be hosting part of the show as Jim and will also be appearing as fictitious football manager, Mike Bassett, the eponymous star of the 2001 comedy film.

To book tickets for the Orchard Theatre show, call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk. Tickets for the Woodville Halls date are available on 01474 337774 or from www.woodvillehalls.com. The show is not suitable for under-18s.



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THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS

Sunday, March 29
Village Hall, Ash

A THRILLING tale of suspense and spying is brought to small venues across the county by Chalkfoot Theatre Arts.

The Riddle of the Sands is a brand new adaptation of Erskine Childers' Edwardian book, considered to be the forerunner of the modern spy novel. With two actors playing a variety of characters, the play offers suspense, adventure and tongue-in-cheek humour. Set just before the outbreak of the First World War, the show sees two young men set out on a yachting expedition that turns into a dangerous spying mission.

Despite losing major fund-



ing last year, Chalkfoot received a great deal of support from rural communities and secured a lifeline grant from Kent County Council. This means they can carry on bringing great theatre to small venues around Kent.

The performance starts at 4pm and tickets cost £8/£7. Refreshments will be available. Tickets are available from 01304 812148 or from the Post Office in The Street, Ash. For more details see www.chalkfoot.org.uk.

JACQUI DANKWORTH

Saturday, March 28
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



JAZZ fans should not miss the chance to see music royalty when Jacqui Dankworth performs.

The undisputed 'Princess of Jazz' has an impressive pedigree, as the daughter of Dame Cleo Laine and Sir John Dankworth. She had always been drawn to the idea of becoming an entertainer, but did not become a singer straightaway.

A successful period as an actress with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, was followed by leading roles in West End musicals. She then decided to focus on a recording career. First touring Hawaii, Hong Kong and Indonesia with her brother Alec's quintet, before working on a song cycle with award-winning jazz compos-



er and saxophonist Tim Garland, along with singers Norma Winstone and Christine Tobin.

Since then she has gone on to become one of the finest singers of her generation and is taking her latest

show, which features jazz, soul, folk and blues influences, on tour.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £18/£16. To book call 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

CHRISTOPHE GODIN

Friday, March 27
Penny Theatre, Canterbury



FRENCH guitar hero Christophe Godin is making a one-off visit to Canterbury later this week.

Considered by some to be France's best guitarist, Godin (pictured, right) is renowned for his sense of humour, virtuosic guitar skills and the energetic performances that reflect his eccentric personality. A household name in his home country, Godin has begun to make his mark on British music lovers after attracting press from guitar magazines.

Godin played in several bands before breaking through in 1995 with Temple, whose album was distributed in France to a positive reception. He went on to form the Mörgibl Trio with Ivan Rougny and Jean-Pierre Frelézeau and another trio, Gnô, with Gabriel Vegh and Peter Puke.

His first solo project, Christophe Godin's Metal Kartoon, has been touring since 2004 and he is also a guitar teacher and writer.

Also on the bill is local guitarist Dudley Ross (pictured, left), who has known Godin for two years and is delighted to be bringing him to Canterbury.

The gig, which is for over-18s, starts at 8pm and tickets cost £5/£4.



CANTERBURY LEISURE

Enjoy some truly great jazz in loving memory

GILAD Atzmon and the Orient House Ensemble will be at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, tonight.

The acclaimed jazz musician pays tribute to Charlie Parker With Strings, one of the biggest selling jazz albums of all time, on his album In Loving Memory of America. Tickets to the 7.45pm concert are 7.45pm. Call 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

Brothers to entertain drinkers at wine bar

LIVE music in a period setting comes to Whitstable's art deco wine bar.

The Barretts are a Django Reinhardt-inspired brother duo and they can be seen performing at Deco 5 in Oxford Street on Saturday. The music starts at 8.30pm.

For information about the venue visit www.deco5.co.uk or call the wine bar on 01227 770079.

Raised voices to be the essence of free concert

THE University Singers of Canterbury Christ Church will be giving a concert on Thursday night.

It will include Preatorius Henry VII, along with works by Sullivan and Miles Rudge. It will be in the St Gregory's Centre for Music at 7.30pm. At 1pm on Friday, duets, quartets and quintets will be giving the final concert of the March series. Admission to both is free.

There's still some time to claim a free day out

PEOPLE all over the county will be enjoying a great attraction for free on Saturday with the Kent Big Day Out.

The event is giving away more than 17,000 free tickets to some of Kent's top destinations, and there could still be time to claim your free day out, so pop into your local visitor information centre or see www.kentbigdayout.co.uk to see if any tickets are still available.

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Thai Restaurant

SPECIALISING in the cuisine of Thailand, this eatery has just opened above the premises operated by existing sushi and noodle bar Yoshi.

This makes one building in Upper Bridge Street the place to go for a fine taste of the food of the Far East.

In response to the demand created by the popular Shangri La in Whitstable, the newly created Thai Restaurant has seating for up to 70 people amidst a tranquil Oriental style décor.

To celebrate the Thai new year on April 13 a special offer is in place from now until the end of that month. A complimentary glass of wine will be offered to customers and coffee will also be made available for those who order a set Thai meal.

On this menu are lamb mango, mild and fruity curry, succulent slices of stir fried duck in homemade aromatic sauce and salmon with tamarind.

The chef has carefully selected this menu so the full range of Thai cuisine can be enjoyed, and at £16.50 per head for two courses it represents fabulous value for excellent food.

Other top dishes on the main menu include Gung Chuu Chee – grilled king prawns topped with traditional sauce and lime leaves with sweet chilli.

Another popular choice is prawn asparagus which are stir fried with pineapple and red peppers in a special homemade sauce with a touch of Japanese chilli oil.

Black tiger prawns in yellow curry with



coconut milk, asparagus, mange tout, baby corn and pineapple is a third dish which has set patrons' mouths watering.

The restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday from 11.30am until 4pm and 6pm until 11pm.

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■ Rose and Crown

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A country pub, not only does it have a wide selection of real ales, lagers and an extensive wine list, it also offers an excellent selection of traditional, locally sourced food at reasonable prices.

Current best sellers include homemade pie of the day, chicken breast in a leek, bacon and cream sauce and the traditional British favourite of fish and chips.

Jackie Pinkney is chef and admits she has a few stereotypical mannerisms associated with the profession: "I do swear but I have a good team behind me that pays attention to well prepared and presented dishes."

However the pub offers more than just food and drink. Every Wednesday there's a jazz

evening, and pool and darts can be played in the bar area.

The polite staff are always on hand to attend to the customers' needs and the area is one of outstanding natural beauty.

A log fire for winter and a conservatory alfresco ambience for summer complete a well stocked, well run and highly thought of village pub.

Pensioners' lunches take place from Monday to Wednesday and a special fish and chip evening is held on a Thursday.

Sunday lunch is always available but the kitchen is closed on Sunday and Monday evenings. At other times it is advisable to book as demand for the food on offer is always heavy.

The kitchen is open from noon until 2pm every day, 6pm to 9pm on Thursday and 7pm to 9pm on other open days.

For further information call 01227 709265.

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DUPLICITY (12A)



Spy thriller starring Julia Roberts and Clive Owen as ex-government agents working for rival multi-nationals. But as the stakes get higher, their missions become compromised when they fall in love.

LESBIAN VAMPIRE KILLERS (15)



James Corden and Mathew Horne star as two no-hopers off to Wales for a weekend of debauchery. However, they find themselves stuck in a village where the women are under a vampire curse.

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)



Single dad Paul Blart is too fat to be a cop, so works as a security officer in a New Jersey mall instead. But when a gang takes over the mall, Blart gets his chance to become a real cop at last.

Owen's new best friend adds the feelgood factor

■ BY KATE WHITING

OWEN Wilson has made sure his latest movie is a real family affair.

Not only do the Texan actor's parents appear in new film *Marley & Me*, but his Australian cattle dog Garcia also makes his debut in the feelgood tale.

The film, based on the best-selling memoir by journalist John Grogan, is all about family – and dogs. It follows John and Jenny Grogan through various stages of their life, from marriage and moving to Florida, to career promotion and childbirth.

The one constant in their relationship is a labrador called Marley, who they describe as "the worst dog in the world".

He chews everything in sight, turns an obedience class into mayhem and howls like fury whenever there's a thunderstorm.

You'd think most actors would politely decline such a script, but perhaps Owen and his co-star Jennifer Aniston had never heard the old adage about never working with children or animals.

"We grew up with dogs," 40-year-old Owen explains.

"My family's first dog was a dalmatian named Nutmeg, but our main dog growing up was a chocolate-brown labrador called Blue. He could swim to the bottom of pools and retrieve golf balls, it was his special trick. He could hold his breath."

Marley ages 13 years in the film, so 22 labradors were needed to play him. None of the dogs was trained to do anything other than normal dog behaviour – and the more badly they behaved the better.

"Clyde was the main dog who played Marley and he was pretty consistent about misbehaving and doing bad stuff," says Owen, with a



DOG AND BONE: Owen Wilson on the line with one of his 22 canine co-stars in *Marley & Me*

cheeky glint in his blue eyes. He also came to the premiere in Amsterdam. They said that was Clyde, but I'm not sure ..."

Dressed in crisp blue shirt, black jacket and jeans, with neatly trimmed designer stubble, Owen looks the picture of health and happi-

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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ness as he chats easily about the film.

It's hard to believe that just over 18 months ago he was suffering from depression and recovering in hospital after an alleged suicide attempt. He withdrew from Ben Stiller's film *Tropic Thunder* and asked the media to respect his privacy. While questions about his health are off limits today, he's happy to chat endlessly about *Marley & Me*.

Owen says the film's feelgood factor is responsible for its box office success when it was released in the US last year.

"It's funny and it also has some emotion to it, and when Jen and I both read the script we responded to the story. It wasn't like an unbelievable, crazy situation. It was grounded in reality."

MARLEY & ME 
Certificate PG

YOU CAN WATCH ANY OF THESE FILM PREVIEWS OF THE LATEST MOVIES BY LOGGING ON TO LEISURE TV @ yourkenttv.co.uk



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Picture: JAMES MCCOULEY

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CANTERBURY SHOPPING

Prepare to be pestered for more trading cards

IF the child in your life has been collecting Match Attax football trading cards then brace yourself for a renewed wave of pester power.

Topps, the company behind the 40p packs has just unleashed Match Attax Extra – a new range which adds to the 2008/09 collection which are doing the rounds of playgrounds across the county.

The packs include the latest signings and new limited edition, man of the match and 100 Club cards.

Write to bread makers and claim some dough

BAKERS Warburtons will be handing out dough to good causes.

Launching its 2009 What Does It Mean To You? initiative, the company is inviting Kent charities to tell them why their cause should receive a contribution. Donation amounts start from £250. To apply write to Warburtons Charity Fund c/o Clarion Communications, The Griffin Building, 83 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5AR. For more details see www.trustwarburtons.co.uk.

Help save the animals with your big designs

YOUNG trendsetters could have their T-shirt design distributed at the Red List Live festival in June.

Students are invited to submit designs inspired by the theme Endangered Animal. The winning shirt will be produced in an exclusive short run at the festival at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe.

The closing date is April 20, for details about how to enter visit www.redlistlive.com.

Even the youngest of bodies need protecting

EVEN the youngest skin can benefit from natural care with The Body Shop's new baby range.

Buriti Baby is named after its key ingredient, the oil of the South American Buriti tree, which naturally softens and protects delicate babies' skin. The products are also rich in beta-carotene and pro-vitamin, blended with other naturally derived ingredients. Products include shampoo (£6) and body wash (£7). To find out more see www.thebodyshop.co.uk.

Turn off the lights to show your concern

GET cosy by candlelight and help tackle climate change by taking part in the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour 2009.

The charity is asking people to turn off their lights for an hour at 8.30pm on Saturday to save energy and to make the statement that they are concerned about climate change. Bluewater shopping centre will be taking part by switching off all non-essential lighting.

For more information about the event go online at www.wwf.org.uk.



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YOUR TV REVIEW



NO LAUGHING MATTER: Horne and Corden fail to hit the spot with their new BBC sketch show

IT'S testing times for television.

With money on everybody's mind those who make our shows on both sides of the Atlantic will likely have to get real and make cut backs like everyone else.

Channel Four might have to stop re-fitting the Big Brother house each year and set it in a barn; the BBC may axe Eastenders (we can all dream); and ITV will probably cut back on its original drama output.

Well, at least it's not all bad news.

It's at times like this that broadcasters will likely turn to their established talents to help them navigate the crisis – the 'bankers' as it were.

So, the Beeb's current young guns, Matthew Horne and James Corden, have been dispatched into battle.

Carrying the flag of fresh new comedy with hopes in the boardrooms of Broadcasting House high, one would assume.

And the result? Well, what can I say except for, oh dear? Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear.

As sketch shows go this one seems to have drawn up a suicide pact with Carol Thatcher's presenting career.

It's woeful stuff, truly it is.

James Corden's schtick seems to revolve around "I'm fat therefore I'm funny" and if the laughs don't come at all (which happens often) it's out with

■ BY TOM BETTS

HORNE AND CORDEN
BBC Three, 10.30pm, Tuesday

the huge belly, which seems to be BBC Three's current answer to a nob/fart gag. How very ingenious...

The two stars have been heavily promoting this tosh for weeks cropping up on everything from T4 to Jonathan Ross, name-dropping to their heart's content. And they're also promoting a new film – see, I told you they were everywhere.

We haven't seen this kind of manic oversell since John Barrowman released an album of smoochy covers.

It really does look like the BBC's new darlings may not be all they're cracked up to be after all and this Kathy Burke-directed attempt at comedy is not so much the sound of the penny dropping for this pair more the sound of the entire contents of a bank vault nose-diving onto the street from a 1,000-feet above.

Perhaps it is the admittance of a rather feeble TV critic who will say that I've never actually watched Gavin and Stacey, their other apparently hilarious outing, but on this evidence, I doubt I'll ever get round to it.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A SENSE of foreboding stops you taking risks. It's wise to be cautious. An enemy could be trying to ruin your reputation. The more honourable your behaviour, the harder is to take you down. It may be a good idea to change passwords, or sensitive information could be compromised.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A LACK of experience could be standing between you and a plum position. Instead of getting angry, work to change the situation. It may take a long time to reach your goals, but the sacrifice will be worth it. It's possible that a bad habit has preventing you from achieving success.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

HEALTH problems could be slowing your progress. You need to treat your body like a temple. By giving your system a chance to recuperate, you'll reconnect with your spirit. All of the sudden your zest for life will be back. Wouldn't it be nice to wake up and feel enthusiastic again?

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

A NEGATIVE outlook could be poisoning your life. Yes, you've experienced some bad setbacks, but if you focus on these troubles they'll only escalate. Reflect on your blessings. Stay away from people who enjoy seeing you suffer. If your work environment is toxic, find a new job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

GOING along with the crowd could get you into trouble. Be prepared to break away from the pack if it is engaged in questionable behaviour. Yes, you may lose some friends, but it's better than losing your self-respect. Ganging up against a weaker individual is never justified.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

IT'S time to accept that a painful situation has come to an end. You have a choice; you can either move on or stay mired in the past. Trying to revive a failed relationship will only lead to more heartache and regret. Stop hanging around people who make you feel inferior.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

A MANIPULATIVE youngster or lover could be clouding your thinking. You need to establish some ground rules with them or they'll continue to take advantage of you. If someone is pushing their luck on the romantic front, alarm bells should be ringing now. Don't let them set the pace.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

FINANCIAL difficulties could put a damper on your love life. If a relationship is going to work, the two of you need to pull together. Sniping at each other will put you both in a very bad place. Sit down and work out a plan that helps you both out of this rut.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

FLATTERY will get you everywhere, especially where authority figures are concerned. A few compliments will steer you away from trouble. There's even a chance they will ask for a date. If you've been thinking of updating your look, this would be a great week to do so.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

DON'T let another person have undue control over your life. It's time to forge a more independent future. If that means opening your own bank account, moving into a new place, or breaking ties with an abusive lover, so be it. An exciting opportunity will help you to make the changes you need.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

TROUBLE at home could be affecting your work performance. It may be a good idea to move to a more neutral ground. Signing a legal agreement will work in your favour. You'll get generous terms for your services. Be supportive of a friend's creative plans – your opinion means a lot.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A CONTROLLING attitude will push people away. Although the prospect of letting loved ones go their own way worries you, it's essential to everybody's happiness. Resist the urge to go through somebody's belongings without their permission. Spying is a breach of trust.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

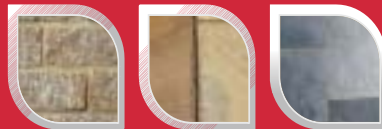
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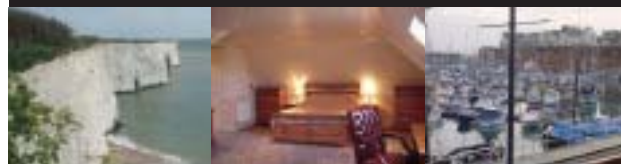
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2	9	1				4	
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HARD

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CRYPTIC CLUES

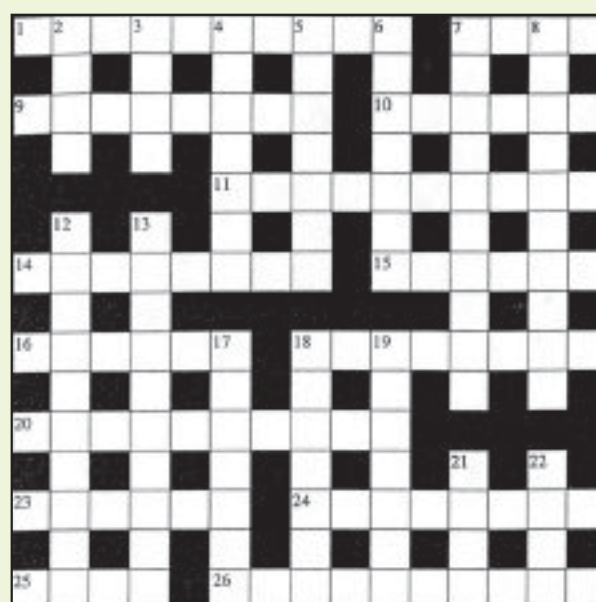
ACROSS

- 1 Too much on the surface (4-3-3)
7 Question one with Penny producing wisecrack (4)
9 Five last another day of celebration (8)
10 Was there not any running water during this hard time? (3,3)
11 Shake gin on rickety vehicle (10)
14 Hesitant follows party worker (8)
15 You on the 6.50 took nothing into town (6)
16 Despite being holey it holds water (6)
18 Yet aren't moved by the request (8)
20 One of the family included a kiss, as a result there is less tension (10)
23 Must have resistance inside cave (6)
24 Saw it had been protected again, say (8)
25 Wendy kept contents of ditch (4)
26 A grouse Pam prepared was violently uncontrollable (10)

DOWN

- 2 After six we get up to watch (4)
3 Pity about the book (4)
4 One remains in suspense (7)
5 Satellite excited starlet (7)
6 Man in the money has shawl (7)
7 On request I removed quizmaster (10)
8 Be servile in regatta I organised (10)
12 Paged reply about animal with darker spots (6-4)
13 Joseph in struggle to engage in conflict (4,6)
17 Una with more elusive charm (7)
18 Witty saying, note, on farm animals (7)
19 Nathan comes up to Indian city for figurine (7)
21 No charge for rebel leader in charge (4)
22 Ox Beelzebub took inside! (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Disconcerting (3-7)
7 Cloak (4)
9 Mother-country (8)
10 Fly (6)
11 Cube (10)
14 Needed (8)
15 Cu (6)
16 Town in NE England (6)
18 Persevere (4,2,2)
20 Top designs (anag.) (10)
23 Survey (6)
24 Stinging insect (8)
25 River in NE England (4)
26 Burdensome (10)

DOWN

- 2 Trickle (4)
3 One with unpolished manners (4)
4 Tutor (7)
5 Linked (7)
6 Vivid (7)
7 Easy task (6,4)
8 Producing disease (10)
12 To some extent (10)
13 Enforced isolation (10)
17 Directory of prominent people (4,3)
18 Tomato sauce (7)
19 Authorise (7)
21 Greek god (4)
22 Eastern European (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No78

EASY

4	2	9	3	8	7	1	6	5
6	3	7	5	2	1	9	8	4
5	1	8	4	9	6	3	2	7
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7	9	1	6	3	8	4	5	2
8	5	6	9	4	2	7	3	1
3	4	2	1	7	5	8	9	6

MEDIUM

4	6	2	1	7	8	3	9	5
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8	9	1	3	5	7	4	6	2
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7	2	9	8	4	5	1	3	6
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1	8	6	9	3	2	7	5	4

HARD

7	8	6	3	5	1	9	2	4
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6	7	3	1	4	9	2	5	8
5	9	8	2	7	3	4	6	1

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No78

ACROSS: 1 Frankfurter 9 Abduct 10 Braille 12 Rotorua 14 Seizure 15 Jungle juice 16 Tit 17 Now 19 Square-dance 22 Overman 23 Entrust 24 Surname 25 Craven 26 Mystery tour. DOWN: 2 Ribston 3 Neutral 4 Fit 5 Robespierre 6 Examine 7 Flaunt 8 Seventeenth 11 Trojan horse 13 Adjourment 18 Wherry 19 Summary 20 Detract 21 Nouveau 25 Car.

QUICK SOLUTION No79

Endorse 21 Zeus 22 Slave. Quarantine 17 Who's who 18 Ketchup 19 play 8 Pathogenic 12 Relatively 13 4 Teacher 5 Indexed 6 Graphic 7 Childs Tyne 26 Oppressive. DOWN: 2 Flow 3 Flea Stipposited 23 Review 24 Horsely 25 Copper 16 Jarrow 18 Keep at it 20 10 Aviate 11 Hexahedron 14 Required 15 ACROSS: 1 Off-putting 7 Cape 9 Homeland

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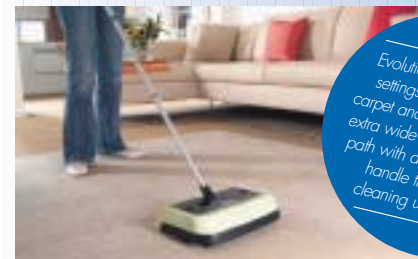
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Evolution II manual carpet sweeper

A must have for every home Ewbank have been producing non-electric carpet sweepers for over a century and their products are still regarded as the best in the world.

This Evolution II manual carpet sweeper is no exception. Just as you would expect, it is lightweight and easy to use. It needs no electricity and is an easy and convenient way to clean your carpets and floors at a moment's notice.



Evolution II has two height settings for cleaning both carpet and hard floors and an extra wide 23.5cm sweeping path with a long coated steel handle that lies flat for cleaning under furniture.

The long life natural bristle brush efficiently sweeps up crumbs and dirt left behind by children and pets and the large capacity dustpan is easy to empty. Other features include a soft furniture guard and it also automatically cleans its own brushes. The Evolution II is available in silver for £29.99 and makes a perfect companion for your vacuum cleaner.

Online Price: £29.99


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Pompeii's magical ruins live again

BY LIZ GILL

YOU can get a guide book to Pompeii which overlays photographs of the ruins with transparencies recreating how the place looked in Roman times.

But you hardly need it when archaeologist Gillian Shepherd is your expert guide.

Listen to her amid these magical ruins and streets are once again thronged with shopkeepers and senators, fast-food sellers and soldiers, graffiti scribblers, prostitutes and errand boys, overburdened slaves and wealthy merchants borne aloft on sedan chairs.

You can almost smell the stench as she describes how fullers used to collect the ammonia needed to bleach linen by having large pots where passing men could lift their togas and make a 'donation' of urine.

And you can easily picture the worshippers in the temples, the beasts in the amphitheatre and convivial gatherings in the baths.

All the vitality of this affluent little town in the Bay of Naples was snuffed out savagely one August afternoon in 79AD when Vesuvius erupted and buried it beneath volcanic ash.

It lay hidden and largely forgotten until its rediscovery in the mid-18th century, and has slowly revealed its secrets in the years since.

The sheer scale of the site – probably a mile from end to end – makes a guide essential. You can do your own exploration with books and audio equipment, or join a day tour, but our expert was provided by tour operator Andante.

For Shepherd, a lecturer at Birmingham University, this is the perfect job.

"Archaeology," she explains, "combines languages, art, science and history. I love the tiny details, especially domestic ones, which you



RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE: The Paestum Temple of Athena, Pompeii, is among the many stunning sights on the tour

can still relate to. At the same time, though, you can never quite know the whole story. There's always something tantalising, always an element of mystery."

The town is undoubtedly the highlight of the week, with a full day devoted to it, but the tour tries to give a wider picture of the area and the era. The trip is called Pompeii, Herculaneum and Classical Campania. Andante believes its trips are best enjoyed in the company of like-minded travellers, so it's a case of small groups and an emphasis on eating and drinking together.

You don't need vast amounts of prior knowledge, only interest and enthusiasm, though I did feel rather daunted when a reading list of 30 titles arrived with my holiday details.

However, the package also includes excellent field notes, distilling key facts into a few pages. For me, the all-embracing intensity made it memorable. My fellow guests, including a marine biologist, a lawyer and business people as well as teachers and academics, were congenial. My learning curve, though steep, was hugely enjoyable. Other days featured visits to

Vesuvius, Herculaneum and Pozzuoli, which has the 40,000 seater Puteoli amphitheatre, one of the best preserved in the world.

In Naples, the spectacular National Archaeological Museum houses the beautiful statues and other artefacts collected from the sites, including extraordinary mosaics made from tesserae (tiles) so tiny that the effect is almost like a painting. Although less of Herculaneum has been excavated, some of it is better preserved.

The 500-degree heat carbonised wood and other organic materials, and at the antiquarium in nearby Boscoreale there are blackened but entirely recognisable foodstuffs such as nuts, seeds and a loaf of bread – as well as a dog and a pig. The curious counterpoint to these are the grey plastercasts in Pompeii where Giuseppe Fiorelli, one of the first proper archaeologists to go there in the 1800s, had the brainwave of pouring plaster into the spaces within the volcanic material caused by the decomposition of the bodies.

The result is a poignant reminder that this was, above all, a human disaster.

FACT FILE: ITALY

Time difference	UK+ 1hr
Capital	Rome
Climate	Mediterranean
Population	59.9 million
Currency	Euro (0.92 to £1)
Religion	Roman Catholic
Language	Italian

Travel details

Liz Gill was a guest of Andante Travels, which offers eight-day escorted tours to Pompeii, Herculaneum and Classical Campania for £1,375, from March until mid-October, including BA return flights into Naples, all meals (with wine and water) and entry to sites and tips, local travel, guide lecturer and tour manager.

Andante offers 2009 packages without flights, from £1,220.

Andante reservations: 0172 271 3800 and www.andantetravels.co.uk



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PROPERTY NEWS

Mann Countrywide on agency award shortlist

MANN Countrywide is celebrating being shortlisted as a finalist for a national estate agency competition.

The winner of each region and the national categories of the Estate Agent and Letting Agent Awards are decided by customers – buyers and sellers who have used Mann Countrywide services.

The Maidstone-based estate agent has been listed as one of the best in the South East and is in the running for the regional and national awards.

The awards will be presented by Phil Spencer, from Channel 4's Location, Location show, at the Marriott Hotel in London's Mayfair, on April 8.

Mr Spencer said: "This is the sixth year of the Estate Agent and Letting Agent Awards and I've enjoyed being part of the celebrations on each occasion."

"It's fantastic to see agents getting the credit they deserve after all the negative press they receive."

"Throughout the property industry there is a constant need to improve customer service and these awards go along way to help agents focus on keeping clients happy."

"After all, the most powerful marketing tool for agents is word of mouth, so customer satisfaction is key."

Sir Richard banking on Virgin Group licence

SIR Richard Branson is looking to obtain a licence for his Virgin Group to become a High Street bank and return to the mortgage market.

The billionaire entrepreneur said: "We are going to get back into the mortgage business and we will become a bank either by acquisition or by getting our own banking licence."

"You will see us become a consumer bank within the next couple of years."

Virgin, which was unsuccessful in acquiring crisis-torn Northern Rock, sold its Virgin mortgage product, Virgin One, to Royal Bank of Scotland more than five years ago.

Sir Richard wants to take advantage of the lack of confidence in existing banks, to give Virgin the chance to quickly gain a share of the market.



AMBITION: Sir Richard Branson



Top tips for clearing out your clutter this spring

CLEARING the clutter from your home can give it a new lease of life for the start of spring.

■ BY NICK AMES

Top interior designer Ceri Rocca has revealed her top tips for tackling storage issues as the days grow longer.

She said: "It's time to start thinking about that annual spring-clean, whether you're opting for a full-blown makeover, a quick lick of paint or simply just a vigorous cleaning exercise to get your house looking spick and span."

"With March 31 seen as the best day for spring-cleaning, you can make some small but significant changes to your home and lifestyle, so long as you're willing to put aside a day for some serious effort and elbow grease."

Ms Rocca said most people are hoarders and storage space is at a premium for nearly everyone. But, more often than not, people aren't maximising the potential space that goes unnoticed in the home.

She said: "As your home will be much more comfortable and run far more efficiently if things are put away, why not try some of the following ideas to help?"

These are her tips for a thorough spring clean:

- Store toys in plastic colour-coded stackable boxes with lids to differentiate the types of toys inside; or you may decide to give each child their own personal box they're responsible for to encourage them to tidy up after themselves.
- By covering open shelves with roller blinds, using a fold-up screen or ceiling-hung fabric panels as room dividers, you'll be able to hide some of that clutter and achieve more space.
- Drawer dividers are a great way of organising small items such as fashion accessories or cutlery; try Lakeland for quality space-saving products.
- Out-of-season clothes can be stored in empty suitcases or bags that are designed to fit snugly under a bed, unnoticed – your wardrobe (and partner) will thank you for it.
- To fit more into your wardrobe, plan storage that reaches all the way

to the ceiling. Stow suitcases and rarely used items on harder-to-reach upper shelves. Add hooks to the door for belts, ties and jewellery.

- If you've kept your shoe boxes, you can take a photo of each pair of shoes and stack the boxes neatly in your wardrobe with the image facing outwards so you know immediately which shoes are in which box.

- Shelving is key and inexpensive – place above doorways and in alcoves. Use small wicker baskets for the little mementoes you can't bring yourself to throw away, and simply store on the shelves.
- Use rows of hooks on walls in the hallway, kitchen and bedrooms for coats, clothes, utensils and pots and pans where possible.

- Look for furniture that serves more than one purpose, such as coffee tables with built-in drawers, side tables that also function as display cases, armoires that can be used for unsightly computer equipment, and sofas that pull-out as guest beds.



DESIGN FOR LIFE: Ceri Rocca, above, says spring is the time to clear out the clutter. Below, the clean lines of one of Ms Rocca's pristine interior designs



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2 bed semi det house, wealth of character, viewing is essential to appreciate.

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Bekesbourne £230,000

4 bed semi detached, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, cloak, bathroom.

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Chartham OIRO £215,000

3 bed end of terr, entrance hall, sitting room, gallery style kitchen & bath.

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Hersden OIEO £200,000

3 bed det house with garage, cloak, lounge, kitchen/diner, master with en suite.

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Wingham, £159,000

2 bed retirement cottage. Viewing recommended.

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Sturry OIEO £150,000

3 Bed Semi Det House with gfch and d/glazed windows, garage in block.

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Upstreet Guide Price £150,000

2 bed terrace home with 2 receptions, kitchen, upstairs 2 bed & bathroom.

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Eastry Guide Price £150,000

3 bed cottage, lounge, d/room, kitchen, grd floor shower, bathroom.

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Canterbury OIEO £140,000

2 bed Grade II terrace with an enclosed rear garden and no onward chain.

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Wingham OIEO £139,995

2 bed maisonette, 2 receptions, c/heating, d/glazing, ORP, garden, no chain.

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Sturry £138,000

2 bed maisonette, 15ft lounge, d/glazed, gfch, allocated parking and garden.

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2 bed first floor apartment, 19ft lounge, parking and communal gardens.

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Aylesham OIEO £115,000

2 bed semi det home with lounge, d/room, kitchen, bathroom.

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Aylesham Guide Price £100,000

2 bedroom terrace, open plan to ground floor with family bathroom.

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Hersden OIEO £87,000

1 bed 1st floor flat with hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom.

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Two bedroom park home, double glazing, allocated parking and no chain.

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Birchington OIEO £30,000

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AYLESHAM £129,995

A three bedroom house. Accommodation entrance hall, lounge/dining room, conservatory and kitchen to the ground floor with three bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor.

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AYLESHAM £135,000

A three bedroom property. Accommodation includes entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen, dining area and lobby to ground floor with three bedrooms and shower room to the first floor.

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CANTERBURY £139,000

An immaculate two bedroom semi detached home significantly improved by the current owner. Viewing is highly recommended.

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CHARTHAM £175,000

A well presented top floor two bedroom apartment with view overlooking the downs. Accommodation kitchen/diner, lounge with balcony and master bedroom with en suite.

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CANTERBURY £179,995

This two bedroom cottage recently refurbished by its current owner. Accommodation sitting room, kitchen to the ground floor with two bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor.

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CHARTHAM £230,000

three bedroom penthouse style apartment situated on the second floor within secure gated ground of St Augustines Chartham development, plus fabulous views across the North Downs.

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two bedroom part thatched cottage where improvements by the current owner have been made. Accommodation kitchen/living area, kitchen, bathroom, office/study over the garage.

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Four Bedroom House. Popular Village Location. Lounge/Diner. Shower Room. First Floor Bathroom. Garden. Garage. Off Road Parking. No Onward Chain.

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BOUGHTON-UNDER-BLEAN OIEO £299,995

Brand new extremely spacious four bedroom detached house situated in the village of Boughton Under Blean. Accommodation, entrance hall, sitting room, 34'0 kitchen/dining room,.

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CANTERBURY £330,000

A very well presented four bedroom detached property situated in a popular modern location not far from the city. Accommodation entrance hall, sitting room, dining room,.

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MYSTOLE £435,000

A beautifully presented 17th century grade II listed property situated in a valley with good access to Canterbury. A wealth of original features including fireplace, beams and doors.

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FAVERSHAM OIEO £100,000

This unique two bedroom converted period apartment is in need of refurbishment and is being offered for sale with no onward chain.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



FAVERSHAM £124,995

No Onward Chain!! A two bedroom mid-terrace property benefiting from a cellar, fitted kitchen and a 92ft rear garden.

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FAVERSHAM OIEO £130,000

A well presented two bedroom Victorian mid-terrace property also offering two reception rooms, kitchen and breakfast room, and a recently updated bathroom.

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FAVERSHAM £132,500

A well presented three bedroom end of terrace benefiting from a modern fitted kitchen, living room with dining area and enclosed rear garden. Early viewing recommended!!

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FAVERSHAM £134,995

No Onward Chain!! A two bedroom semi-detached bungalow also offering lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, garden and garage.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



TEYNHAM £159,995

A three bedroom semi-detached property in a cul-de-sac location backing onto open fields. Other benefits include lounge/diner and off road parking.

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FAVERSHAM OIEO £160,000

No Onward Chain!! This two bedroom detached bungalow also offers lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, fitted bathroom and garage offering off road parking. Early viewing recommended!!

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FAVERSHAM £174,950

No Onward Chain!! A warden assisted two bedroom ground floor apartment also benefiting from a fitted kitchen and wet room.

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FAVERSHAM OIEO £190,000

Three Bedroom Semi Detached, Extended Property, Offered For Sale with No Chain, Garage & Driveway.

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FAVERSHAM £249,995

Popular Location!! A three bedroom semi-detached family home offering lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, garage and gardens to both front and rear.

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FAVERSHAM £250,000

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Herne Bay

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- Ready to view



HERNE BAY £159,995

- 3 Bed Semi
- Garage
- Good Location



HERNE BAY REDUCED TO £134,995

- Central Location
- Off Street Parking
- Good Condition



HERNE BAY £115,000

- 2 bedroom terraced home
- Close to town centre
- Prompt sale required, no chain



HERNE BAY £379,995

- Fantastic 5 bed bungalow
- Spacious accom, luxury bathrooms
- Very private location, garage



HERNE BAY £164,995

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- Stylish interior, detached garage



HERNE BAY £229,000

- Desirable 4 bed detached house
- Spacious & stylish accommodation
- Garage, Garden & great location



HERNE BAY £154,995

- Quaint historic cottage
- Host of original features
- Shared courtyard & chain free sale



HERNE £269,995

- Extended 5 bedroom family home
- Fitted kitchen, master ensuite
- Quiet cul de sac location



HERNE BAY £179,995

- Good size bungalow, two dble beds
- Enclosed garden, plenty of parking!
- Modern kitchen and bathroom



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- Detached 2 bedroom bungalow
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- Absolutely No Chain Ahead!!



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- Lots on offer



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- 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
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- No Forward Chain



WHITSTABLE £182,500

- Extended 3 bed semi detached
- Cul de sac position
- Close to all amenities



WHITSTABLE £184,995

- 2 bedroom detached bungalow
- L shaped rear garden
- Updating required



CHESTFIELD £249,995

- Extended 3 bed chalet home
- 133' rear garden
- Immaculate order through out



SOUTH TANKERTON £199,995

- Extended 2 bed detached bungalow
- Garage and driveway
- 2 reception rooms



WHITSTABLE £259,995

- Extended 4 bed detached house
- Conservatory, excellent family home
- Must be seen



WHITSTABLE £159,995

- 2 Bedroom apartment
- Garage and parking
- No forward chain



WHITSTABLE REDUCED TO £219,995

- 2 Bedroom cottage
- Completely refurbished
- Close to town and amenities



WHITSTABLE £285,000

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- Close to Tankerton Slopes
- In need of updating



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- Kitchen, Spacious Lounge
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- Semi rural Location

Wingham

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- Two Double Bedrooms
- Light and Bright lounge
- Modern Bathroom, Fitted kitchen
- Neutral décor throughout

Chartham

£700pcm



- 2 Double Bedroom apartment
- Family Bathroom, shower over bath
- Open plan Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Kitchen, White goods, Original features

Whitstable

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- Three well proportioned rooms
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- Fitted Kitchen, Family bathroom
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- 2 Bed apartment, One Single
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- Kitchen with white goods

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Canterbury

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Canterbury

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- Four bedrooms
- Lounge, kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden, Garage

Canterbury

£850pcm



- Two Spacious Bedrooms flat
- Ensuite, Modern & Neutral decor
- Open Plan Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- Kitchen with appliances

Canterbury

£850pcm



- Three Bedrooms semi det hse
- Two Receptions, Large Lounge
- Dining room leading to garden
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Chartham

£900pcm



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Countrywide

Margate



Price on Application £30,000

BY AUCTION: 28/04/09 via Countrywide Property Auctions 0870 240 1140. A 2 bed flat, lounge, kitchen.

Margate



A 1 bedroom house to be sold BY AUCTION: Guide Price £45,000 - 28th April 2009 at The New Connaught Rooms, London, WC2 via Countrywide Property Auctions: 0870 240 1140.

Ash



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Three bedroom home benefits from lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, cloakroom and first floor bathroom/WC.

Canterbury



Offers in excess of £150,000

This much improved semi-detached property offers two bedrooms, kitchen, Edwardian style conservatory.

Hersden



£179,995

Three bedroom home offering lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, en-suite shower room, family bathroom, garden.

Blean



£235,000

Three bedroom family home lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, master en-suite, bathroom and garage.

Canterbury



£259,000

Family home benefiting from ground floor cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, four bedrooms.

Canterbury



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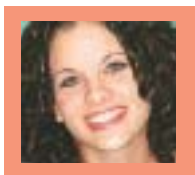
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WOMEN seeking men

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 44694 **♀**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756 **♀**

BRING ME SUNSHINE

Outgoing, fun female 28, seeks outgoing, fun guy to make me laugh and share good times. Box 448211 **♀**

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 **♀**

GET A STRIKE

African single woman, 30, caring, adventurous, generous, medium build. I love cinema/TV, music, bowling, shopping, cosy nights in. Box 882789 **♀**

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 **♀**

ON A ROLL!

Hi, I'm Alison, 36, 5ft5, single mum, loves swimming, roller skating and meeting new people, looking for a male for friendship, maybe leading to more. Box 448865 **♀**

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, n/s, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 **♀**

WISHLIFY YOURS

Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915 **♀**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large-build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **♀**

LOOKING FOR A LOVING CHAP

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have two kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446965 **♀**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **♀**

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 **♀**

DON'T LET ME DOWN

Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **♀**

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

Single mum, 43, kind and devoted, likes walks, cinema, beaches and socialising, drinks and films, seeks similar man for lasting love. Box 449586 **♀**

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 **♀**

GOOD TIME GIRL

Outgoing young lady, 43, blonde hair blue eyes, 5ft4, works hard, loves socialising, partying, meeting new people...looking for similar male to enjoy happy times with. Box 449157 **♀**

AIMING HIGH

Fit blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017 **♀**

LET'S CLICK

WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature: I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847 **♀**

A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, wine, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071 **♀**

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 **♀**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 **♀**

EVERLASTING LOVE

Beautiful black female, 46, WLTm a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-60, 5ft10+, pref a bit sporty, for a everlasting relationship. Tunbridge Wells Box 445407 **♀**

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186 **♀**

HI EVERYONE, I'M

Debbie, 46, slim, 5ft5, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for a man, 44-49, 5ft7+, with a nice appearance, preferably a n/s. Box 449422 **♀**

FANCY A FILM?

Hi I'm Pam, 47, 5ft11, brown hair, hazel eyes, slimish, divorced, looking for a LTR with a nice and genuine man. No time-wasters please! Heathfield. Box 448626 **♀**

FAIRY TALE ENDING

Good-looking slim blonde, 42, tired of kissing frogs, seeking an intelligent, solvent professional male to be my prince. Box 446521 **♀**

THE HOME LIFE

Happy, caring female, homely, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024 **♀**

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444736 **♀**

FAIRY TALE ENDING

Good-looking slim blonde, 42, tired of kissing frogs, seeking an intelligent, solvent professional male to be my prince. Box 446521 **♀**

HERE WE ARE

Shy girl, 38, loves having laughs and lots of fun, seeks similar guy to enjoy special moments and hopefully love with. Box 448679 **♀**

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **♀**

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for no time wasters! For hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **♀**

FROM ME TO YOU

Tall leggy brunette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoys meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887404 **♀**

CUTE AS CAN BE

Kent, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Cute, based into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897963 **♀**

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LIFE IS GIVING LOVE A GUARANTEE

Down-to-earth lady, 42, sincere, honest and reliable, looking for a male for friendship first, going out, enjoying evenings and perhaps something more later on. Box 449712 **♀**

COSY TIMES TOGETHER

Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545 **♀**

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

Single mum, 43, kind and devoted, likes walks, cinema, beaches and socialising, drinks and films, seeks similar man for lasting love. Box 449586 **♀**

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

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CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55, Hastings Box 417100 **♀**

HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO Londoner new to the area, 57, 5ft5, slim attractive blonde, seeking a man for serious relationship and lasting happiness. Box 449587 **♀**

SOMETHING NEW Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLTm male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447682 **♀**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **♀**

HAPPY AS ME Fun-to-be with, happy, contented lady (60), 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 882812 **♀**

Women seeking women

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS I'm a 26yr old female, looking for new friends and maybe that special girl...let's have a meal and a drink and see what happens! Box 448722 **♀**

FRIENDSHIP, HOPEFULLY MORE Feminine woman, easygoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes. I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448428 **♀**

PUT THE SPICE BACK IN! Family orientated guy, 41, separated, looking to find a lady who wants the fun and company of a partner back into their life. Box 884085 **♂**

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I WANT Caring 41yr old male, 5ft11, short brown hair, blue eyes, enjoy theme parks, cinema, bowling, looking for a lady, 18-32, for friendship, maybe a relationship. Box 450316 **♂**

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750 **♂**

SEARCHING FOR LOVE Genuine single fella, 41, worked hard all my life now need to find love, seeking loving lady to have loads of fun and more with. Box 884098 **♂**

DOWN TO MARGARET! Young-looking, slim male, 43yr old, 5ft10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, with a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate. Box 441706 **♂**

DON'T FORGET THIS ONE! Hi, I'm Steve, 40s, 6ft2, muscular build, likes pubs/clubs and sport, WLTm a female, 40-46, for an everlasting relationship. Box 445541 **♂**

LEAN ON ME Very romantic, caring & loyal male, 44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair, gosh, seeks lady with similar interests for hopeful long term relationship. Hastings. Box 446120 **♂**

VERY ENDEARING Cheeky, happy, fit, intelligent 44yr old guy seeks an attractive, intelligent, fun-loving girl to take out and chat with and love forever. Box 450284 **♂**

ALL NIGHT LONG I'm 44, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, loves the cinema and beach walks, music, nights in and out, cooking; seeking female 35-52 for promising relationship. Box 449992 **♂**

MUSCLE MUSCLE MAN Muscular mid 40s black guy, 5ft11, great SOH, WLTm attractive slim build with GSOH, for loving encounters and uncomplicated relationship. Box 450058 **♂**

TAKE MY BREATH AWAY! Loving single dad, 45, loves his pubs and clubs and running, keeping fit, slim, medium height, seeks similar for mutual fun and companionship... Box 450185 **♂**

A TONED BODY... Warm, friendly, affectionate male, 46, has plenty of love to give to the right woman, all I need to do is find her! Box 450300 **♂**

CANT SMILE WITHOUT YOU Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274 **♂**

HAPPY TOGETHER White male, 46, 5ft7, easygoing, n/s, loves a laugh, enjoys theme parks, concerts, romantic walks, wltm female to be happy with. Tammy please call again! lost number! Box 444339 **♂**

THE START OF SOMETHING LASTING? Hi I'm 48, hard working, live Eastbourne, seeking female for friendship and companionship and seeing what might happen! Box 447693 **♂**

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MOTORS NEWS



Mini crop top lights up gloomy motor market

NEXT weekend marks the showroom debut of a car that could lighten current gloom – the Mini Convertible Mk II.

The market has waited two years longer for an all-new Mini crop top than for the hatchback – here first in Cooper (£15,995) and Cooper S (£18,995) forms.

If the original wore decapitation awkwardly, the newcomer is more harmonious with roof up or down. Prominent roll bars behind each rear seat have gone too, replaced by a single bar that extends only if a crash is imminent.



Urban Cruiser, the 'Son of RAV', is coming soon

TOYOTA launches its answer to 'townie crossovers' like the Nissan Qashqai and Kia Soul, next month.

The eye-catching Urban Cruiser uses expertise honed by the Japanese giant's experience with the RAV4 series, but notes the motor market's desire to downsize and for SUVs (sports utility vehicles) to be less obtrusive. So the Urban Cruiser is compact and uses a 1.4-litre diesel, but still looks muscular and, Toyota insists, will be 4x4... but let's not bet against a front-wheel drive model later.



Patriot's sparks Jeep revolution from inside

JEEP has clearly listened to repeated complaints about the Achilles heel of its otherwise clever bargain basement 4x4, the Patriot – poor quality interior design and finishing.

The car has an all-new instrument panel, redesigned centre console, remodelled door trim, carpeted boot floor and premium floor mats plus new sound systems. Yet prices are even more competitive than before, starting from under £15,000, which is family hatchback money for a proper off-roader.



MORE NEW THAN OLD: BMW's 1-Series Coupé is a spiritual successor to the original two-door E3, but boasts something the older car never had in the UK, an excellent diesel option

BMW's reborn classic

ROAD TEST BMW 1-SERIES

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

despite using run-flat tyres to free the boot from packing a spare.

It also boasts access to something the E30 never had in the UK – some of the best diesel engine options in this class.

The 120d (£21,385) is the entry model for the whole range as well as the diesels, yet powers the car to 62mph in just 7.6 seconds.

Its 123d flagship sister, as tested here, does the job in 7.0 secs; all petrol versions better that, of course, but you are still getting a sporting BMW plus diesel economy and even our 123d should average some 50mpg.

What an engine too – twin turbochargers for loads of power across the range, plus the smoothness of a petrol unit.

And it is a proper four-seater, though rear legroom is cramped and you will tire of having to re-adjust either front seat after allowing rear passengers in and out.

It comes with BMW's impressive EfficientDynamics (ED) package, delivering here and now economies and lower emissions without compromising what we can still enjoy about driving, and includes a 'stop-start' facility that cuts and smoothly re-starts the engine when stationary in traffic or at the lights.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

CHRYSLER VOYAGER



COMMERCIAL and private buyers made the Voyager a big hit for Chrysler in the UK. All versions seat seven, but there is more demand for the extra luggage space of 13-inch longer 'Grand' models and those featuring Stow 'n' Go: under floor stowage that also takes the folded seats when not needed. The smooth and powerful post-2004 diesel auto is the powertrain to go for. Voyagers ride comfortably, but bulk, small wheels and vague steering make for a dull drive.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

KIA SEDONA



NEVER mind the quality, feel the width describes the Kia Sedona (1999-2006). Replaced by a more sophisticated model, the original is a cheap, reliable and capacious used buy though the interior is tacky, safety features were not up with rivals and it feels lumpy on rural roads, though excelling as a comfy motorway muncher. The post-2002, 125bhp diesel is the engine to go for if the budget will stretch. Sliding rear doors and a big tailgate make access easy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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FORD GALAXY



IF Renault's Espace distilled the essence of the people carrier, Ford mass-produced it. The 1995-vintage Galaxy plus VW Sharan and Seat Alhambra clones sold well through space and car-like handling. The latter pair are still going strong and should be considered if you want something later yet cannot run to the excellent post-2006 second generation Galaxy. Reliability on early 'Mark I' Galaxies is flaky so post-2000 diesels are the pick of the used crop.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr (Climate), ca080oe, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag,radio/cd, rear headrests, sports pack, tech pack, insurance group:5, black, 10187 miles, £3395, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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B150, SE New Generation, 2008, horizon blue metallic panoramic roof, 6500 miles, £13995, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

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MG

TF, 1.8 135 16v 2dr, gf04whz, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, immobiliser, head restraints, radio/cassette, power assisted steering, remote locking, sports seats, insurance group:12, silver, 20000 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MINI

COLT, 1.1 C21 3dr, ly08gwn, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, computer, electric windows, folding rear seats, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:3, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving, red, 64 miles, £5995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.5 D-1D C22 5dr Auto, gk08yvc, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, blue, 8500 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.5 C2T Black Hawk 3dr, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, computer, electric mirrors, black, 100 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.5 D1-D C22 5dr Auto, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, insurance group:5, list price, grey, 50 miles, £8795, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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COLT, 1.3 C22 5dr, gk58vgf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, radio/cd, power assisted steering, locking wheel nuts, multi function steering wheel,black, 1500 miles, £9395, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.5 D1-D C22 5dr, y757chj, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, foglights, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, insurance group:5, blue, 5349 miles, £7495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.6 Elegance 4dr Auto, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, heated seats, leather seats, navigation system, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags, traction control, insurance group:9, massive savings of over £, red, 100 miles, £15995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, Evolution X 2.0 GSR FO-300 4dr SST, gn08wut, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, insurance group:9, saving, blue, 2500 miles, £26993, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08yvc, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving, silver, 9000 miles, £13493, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 2.0 D1-D GS4 4dr "Delivery Miles Only", gk09nws, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, immobiliser, head restraints, heated seats, leather seats, navigation system, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags, traction control, insurance group:9, massive savings of over £, red, 100 miles, £15995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, Evolution X 2.0 GSR FO-300 4dr SST, gn08wut, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, insurance group:9, saving, blue, 2500 miles, £26993, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr CVT, w08zrf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:8, saving, blue, 6800 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, II 2.0 D1-DC Warrior 5dr abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, dvd, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, insurance group:11, silver, 17300 miles, £17495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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OUTLANDER, II 2.0 D1-DC Warrior 5dr, wv08bta, electric mirrors, leather gearknob, tinted windows, airbag double + side, cd player, fog lights, electric/mirror mirrors, metallic paint, leather steering wheel, 18 light alloy wheels, adjustable seat height, air-conditioning, boardcomputer, silver, 3000 miles, £19995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
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For more information and an application pack please contact:

Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.

Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date: Friday 3rd April 2009

Interview Date: Week commencing Monday 6th April 2009



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Closing date: Friday 17 April 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

More effort into saving energy pays dividends

CASH-conscious businesses have by now found ways of reducing their electricity, gas and water costs by negotiating lower charges and moving to lower energy lighting.

But these savings will soon be eaten up by further increases in prices and carbon taxes says Martyn Young, pictured right, who runs Blean-based Atlantic Business Resources.



"A cost-effective solution is to educate your staff into minimising usage," he said.

"A good way to start is to appoint an 'energy champion' with responsibility for reducing usage. With weekly meter readings, usage can be charted on the wall.

"By engaging staff in this way you are ensuring continuity of effort, rather than one-off training which often gets forgotten. Employee involvement can easily reduce utility costs by ten per cent.

"For higher usage businesses there are energy monitoring and control systems which will take readings every 30 minutes and provide information.

"These cost from about £3,500 upwards, but can easily pay back within one to two years of savings. There are interest-free loans available through the Carbon Trust, and they also attract 100 per cent capital allowances."

Free start-up seminar

PEOPLE thinking of working for themselves are being offered a free training seminar on how to survive and thrive in the recession.

Called Let's Talk Starting In Business, it will be at Barclays business centre in North Street, Ashford, on Friday.

It's run by Capitalise Business Support (CBS) in conjunction with NFEA, the national enterprise network.

CBS managing director Sean Dennis said the aim was to have more workshops in Ashford and Maidstone during the year.

And would-be bosses can also discuss the possibility of finance.

Details on www.barclays.co.uk/seminars, or phone 0845 601 8326.

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Julie Maddocks asks: "Is small really beautiful in business?" Search 'crunch'

Ride property boom when the tide turns

Heart of county will see rapid recovery, delegates told

■ BY TONY PATEY

PROPERTY prices in central Kent will boom again once the economy starts moving out of recession.

The message was clear from county-based industry expert John Elliott at a workshop on this year's outlook for property in the Weald and west Kent.

Mr Elliott, managing director of Millwood Designer Homes, based in Tonbridge, said although current trading remained tough, "stock was beginning to move and individuals could obtain mortgage finance, although on more stringent terms".

He told delegates at the meeting, run by local law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore, that once the turning point in the general economy comes the recovery in the property market would be "rapid".

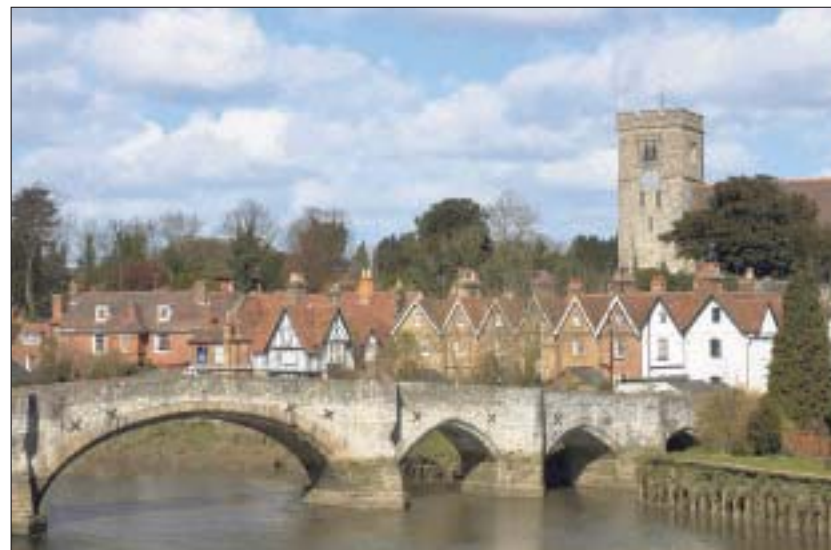
"As developers would be unlikely to get their existing 'mothballed' sites on line quickly enough to satisfy demand, prices would rise again as fewer sites came on to the market to satisfy need."

Simon Richardson, of the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), said the outlook was mixed.

He added that surveys showed businesses in Kent were less pessimistic about the future than their counterparts in the rest of the South East.

However, he said, the numbers of residents employed in the financial services sector meant the Weald and west Kent area was likely to be more vulnerable to the effects of the credit crunch than other parts of the county.

A discussion group on regeneration and renewal concluded the area was held back by



SAFE AS HOUSES: Aylesford and other parts of central Kent are well placed for the post-recession rebound

factors such as poor road transport links and higher priority for investment given to other areas such as Thanet or the Thames Gateway.

Another group discussing rural and agricultural issues said the rural community had been sustained over a number of years by diversification into other activities.

However, farmers were often prevented from diversifying due to complicated planning rules and regulations and, more recently, restricted finance.

Demand among farmers to develop their businesses was not matched by political will.

Regarding rental property, it was concluded

that in the current market landlords must be prepared to offer more flexible terms to attract and retain tenants and keep up their income, including break clauses and rent-free periods.

In the meantime, developers who had options over potential sites were not exercising them because funding was not generally available for residential development unless sites were wholly pre-let.

So the conclusion was that the Weald and west Kent area is in a good position to take advantage of the upturn when it comes, and what was needed were effective council-led initiatives and a stronger infrastructure.



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Picture: ADY KERRY



NEW SIGNING: Paul Millman (pictured) feels Kent should not be criticised for their move to sign Stuart Clark

Clark could be Kent's last signing this summer

KENT have no immediate plans to replace incoming overseas fast bowler Stuart Clark when his six-week contract ends in June.

The county announced the signing of the Australian at the club's AGM this week for the first six weeks of the summer.

However, as a result of the delay to the £10 million redevelopment of St Lawrence and the county's disappointing financial results, the club will wait until June before deciding whether a new overseas player is to replace Clark for the second half of the season.

Kent were criticised for signing the Australian in an Ashes year, with the ECB's

CRICKET

managing director Hugh Morris, selector Geoff Miller and skipper Andrew Strauss all vociferous in condemnation. Strauss described the signing as "short-sighted" but chief executive Paul Millman pointed towards the potential loss of Amjad Khan to England and the fact three other Kent players are on the cusp of international honours.

He told Yourcanterbury: "We can't be accused of not supporting England, we have Amjad Khan in the England squad, Robbie

Joseph, Rob Key and Joe Denly – four in contention for England honours and that's as many if not more than any other county."

Millman cited the case of Steve Waugh in Kent's defence: "Seven or eight years ago we had Steve Waugh for a month and that attracted a certain amount of soul searching at the time, but at the end of that month there was nobody in Kent saying it was a bad thing.

"I don't think Steve Waugh's month at Kent made a blind bit of difference to the Ashes and I don't think Stuart Clark's six weeks here will either."

• For the full story visit www.kentnews.co.uk.

Stuart proves he's the King for Bay

A HAT-TRICK from Stuart King helped Herne Bay to a 4-1 win over Tunbridge Wells in the Kent League Premier Division.

The Bay broke the deadlock after a tight first half when King turned in Luke Harvey's cross and the same duo combined to make it 2-0 four minutes after the restart. King played a one-two with Harvey and drilled the second under the Wells' goalkeeper.

A brilliant volley by Darren Marsden made it 3-0 on 55 minutes and King completed his treble from the penalty spot ten minutes later, before Tunbridge Wells managed a late consolation goal, also from a penalty.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson reveals latest on Luis Cumbers' future at the club

Olympians hit form just in time for city

THERE'S plenty of life left in Canterbury's Mel Clewlow yet, judging by Saturday's 2-2 draw with Olton & West Warwicks.

The Olympian's frustration at the way she is being marginalised from the international set-up was taken out on her club side's opponents, as she struck a late goal to earn her side a point.

Canterbury went ahead after 11 minutes when Cathy Gilliat-Smith scored in open play, but the Midlands side drew level on 28 minutes and went ahead after the restart. With 12 minutes left the visitors were awarded a penalty corner and Clewlow stepped up to blast the equaliser.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Kent duo bowled over after becoming world champions

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

KENT and England captain Charlotte Edwards admits it's going to take time for it to finally sink in that her side are world champions.

The 29-year-old had previously lost in three World Cup semi-finals, but in the early hours of Sunday morning, Edwards lifted the trophy to cap off an amazing 12-months in which the England women's team won the Ashes in Australia and Edwards herself was named ICC Women's Player of the Year.

In a tense final in New South Wales, England bowled New Zealand out for 166 thanks to Nicky Shaw claiming figures of four for 34 having been drafted in on the day of the game to replace the injured Jenny Gunn. At one stage England were cruising, but lost five wickets for 40 runs to slip to 149 for six, including Edwards for ten and Kent team-mate Lydia Greenway who made eight.

Shaw and spinner Holly Colvin came together at the end to see them over the line to win by four wickets.

A delighted Edwards said: "It's great having the trophy but I think it will take a couple of days to sink in.

"I'm not too sure what I am feeling at the moment but I am just so happy we got over the line in the end. We are world champions – it's just believing it now.

"We made really hard work of it, but it doesn't matter how you win as long as you win. The girls have worked really hard.

"I was biting my fingernails at the end because I didn't want us to mess it up. We had done so well in the field, we bowled and fielded well, so to let it slip stupidly would have been disastrous."

The World Cup is just the start of a big year for Edwards and her side as they look to continue promoting the women's game in England. The Kent and England skipper will lead her side out in the inaugural ICC Women's World Twenty20, which if England make the final, is to be played before the men's Twenty20 final at Lord's later this summer.

The England side also take on Australia looking to make it three Ashes wins in a row, but for now Edwards is savouring the moment of having led a side to the top of the women's game.

She said: "My brother said to me three months ago that we would win it and I have done it.

"If I really put my mind to something it normally happens, but it would not happen if I didn't have such a great bunch of people around me. They have done fantastically well and it's great to see their faces. It's amazing."



Picture: GETTY IMAGES

WINNERS: Kent and England captain Charlotte Edwards (centre) celebrates with team-mates after winning the World Cup

GB hockey star refuses to be 'bitter and twisted'

HOCKEY

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

MEL Clewlow will continue to be available for international selection despite being excluded from the latest funding squad.

The Canterbury ladies defender is Great Britain's most experienced player, passing 250 international caps at the Beijing Olympics last summer. The 32-year-old considered her international future last autumn before deciding she wanted to carry on, although she stopped short of being able to guarantee her fitness as far ahead as the London Olympics.

The chances of Clewlow adding to her record number of appearances have now receded after she was left out of the 32-strong squad to get central funding. Although two months have passed since finding out the news from coach Danny Kerry, the decision still rankles.

"I'm annoyed, frustrated, angry – you name it, it's been an emotional rollercoaster," she told Yourcanterbury. "I don't agree with the reasons I was given but I can't do anything about it, it's the coach's call."

"I could take the option to say 'that's it, I'm retiring' and be bitter and twisted about my whole career but that shuts the door completely. The hardest thing is it's taken away the opportunity for me to help the younger players, which is why I don't understand the decision."



FIGHTING ON: Mel Clewlow will not quit international hockey despite being left out of the Britain's funding squad

Kerry, who coached Canterbury ladies before taking over the national job four years ago, said he understood the reaction but his priority was building a squad for London 2012.

He said: "It's come as a bitter disappointment for Mel, as it would for any player. That's really me looking to London in particular."

"It's not a pleasant part of the job but I have to make tough decisions with players who want to carry on but will probably not be OK to play in London. If it transpires the players we've put in the current group aren't going to deliver then there is an opportunity. I've made it clear to Mel that it is unlikely."

Gess and Elms on target to calm Town's drop fears

FOOTBALL

Whitstable Town 2 Merstham 0

THE Oystermen put clear blue water between themselves and the relegation zone on Saturday, thanks to two second half goals at the Belmont.

The sunny conditions may have been glorious for football, but only 145 people bothered to turn up to watch an error-strewn first half.

Both sides frittered away possession needlessly and an even first half ended with neither side seriously testing the opposing keeper.

However, the home side clicked into gear at the start of the second period, taking control of the game and heeding the lessons of the first half by retaining the ball.

Pressure began to mount on the visiting goal and the breakthrough finally came just after the hour mark.

With the Surrey side hemmed in their own six-yard box by successive corners, Jack Tanner floated in a brilliant cross and Jake Gess powered in a header for the opening goal.

Yet if Whitstable were hoping for a quiet end to the game they were in for a disappointment as with 13 minutes left, Tanner went for a high ball and the referee deemed his combative approach worthy of a red card.

Town had a rocky spell, but overcame their jitters and clinched the points in the final minute.

New signing Dominic Elms, having scored twice for the reserves midweek, marked his



ALMOST SAFE: Jake Gess celebrates scoring the opening goal for Whitstable Town

debut in unforgettable fashion by scoring with his very first touch.

Town are now nine points clear of the drop zone, ahead of a tough trip to Kingstonian on Saturday.

FOOTBALL



EDGING CLOSER: Canterbury City are closing in on the title after a hard fought victory

City move to top spot and set sights on a title victory

AFC Sheppey 0 Canterbury City 1

IT would be premature to begin celebrating promotion just yet, but Canterbury City took a major step towards Kent County League Premier Division football next season when they beat their main rivals AFC Sheppey on Saturday.

With the University of Kent also suffering a surprise 3-1 loss at home to Staplehurst, City went top of Division One East on goal difference with a gritty win against the Islanders.

Manager Dave Fairclough opted to start with three strikers against an obdurate Sheppey side, but for an hour they were kept at bay as the home side neutralised play.

Sheppey gave City precious little time on the ball and when the visitors did get possession they repeatedly squandered it with predictable, route one passing.

Royston Gough had the first serious effort on goal, with a low drive on 23 minutes that was palmed away by the home goalkeeper.

Otherwise the first half was a cagey, tight affair with chances at a premium.

The home side threatened shortly after the restart with a free-kick that keeper Danny Wrench dealt with comfortably enough, but the lack of spark to City's play prompted Fairclough into a gamble on 65 minutes, when he took off Gough and threw on the more physical Dave Read.

Within a minute Read created space for Scott Lawford to smack the crossbar with a free-kick. Two minutes after that a Calum McGeehan free-kick was floated into the box and as the home side struggled to clear the danger the ball fell to Wayne Fittall, who steered in the winner.

City dominated from then on, as Sheppey ran out of ideas and energy. They are now level on points with Sheppey, but crucially they have three games in hand. They host New Romney on Saturday.

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Action from Blackheath's clash with the Barbarians to mark 150-year anniversary



TOUGH: Canterbury lost twice inside two days

City club lose out in Kent Cup defence

RUGBY

Canterbury 13 Richmond 17

A BLEAK weekend for Canterbury saw them lose 13-17 at home to Richmond in National 3 South on Saturday, before they were knocked out of the Kent Cup by Thanet on Sunday.

Richmond missed an early penalty in Saturday's game and spent much of the first half camped in Canterbury territory, but when the home side did manage to break out the visitors were penalised at the tackle and Gert De Kock struck a penalty from long range.

Canterbury shocked Richmond five minutes from the restart when they stole a line-out and Pat Sykes went under the posts for a converted try.

Yet the 10-0 lead didn't even last until half-time. Matt Hart kicked a penalty for Richmond and a superb individual try from Jo Ajuwa made it 10-10. De Kock dropped a goal to put Canterbury back in front early on in a pulsating second period, but Hart then scored out wide and converted himself to give Richmond a lead they never surrendered.

On Sunday Thanet beat Canterbury 34-29 with a try in extra-time.



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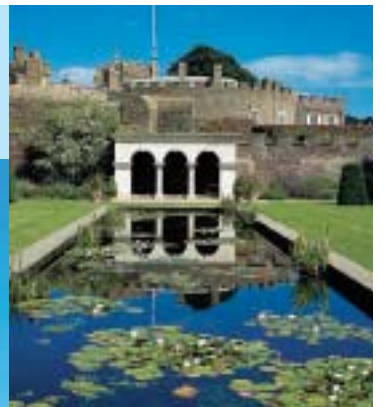
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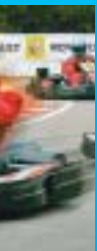
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